

BLETCHINGDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 22nd July 2021 at 7:30pm

Present: Cllr C. Lane (Chairman), Cllr M. Whitehead, Cllr M. Taylor, Cllr A. Jordan, Cllr R. Pirie, Cllr D. Robins, Cllr D. Ledger, Oxfordshire County Cllr (OCC) Mr N. Simpson & Cherwell District Cllr (CDC) Mr D. Hughes.

111/21 Covid-19 precautions taken: The Clerk sanitised the building, made sure it was well ventilated and that the seats were spaced 2 meters apart. An attendee register is no longer required since restrictions were lifted on the 19th July 2021.

112/21 Apologies: None.

113/21 Declarations of Interest: None.

114/21 Public Participation: None.

115/21 To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 24th June 2021: The Minutes were approved by all and signed by Cllr C. Lane.

116/21 Clerks update on action points:

- a) With regards to proceeding with the speed check, Cllr M. Whitehead is trying to clarify where we can purchase the appropriate signage and materials needed. The Clerk has also been making enquiries into this. Jean Conway has said we could borrow their signs until we get our own sorted. The Clerk will contact her to request this.
- b) Bottle Bank enclosure. Cllr Lane and the Clerk attended a meeting on Saturday 17th July with CDC to discuss a new location and plans. The suggested place is on private land so an agreement will need to be arranged with the land owner. This location is slightly smaller so will only have enough space for 3 banks, instead of 4.
- c) The Clerk contacted Green Scythe to request that they proceed with spraying the weeds throughout the Village. This has been done and takes up to 10 days to take effect.
- d) The Clerk has checked that the Clean Slate charity request for a donation is legitimate so is now on the payment list for approval.
- e) The Clerk has contacted CDC following the reports of concerns about some houses within Bletchington. Three of the four houses are Sanctuary houses so the concerns have been reported to them. The 4th has been forwarded to CDC's environmental enforcement team for investigation.
- f) With regards to the footpaths on Weston Road and The Causeway, the Clerk reported this again via Fix my Street. OCC have now come back to explain that CDC are responsible for removing the silt, debris and leaves and then OCC are responsible for siding out work. Ideally CDC would do their work first but OCC have agreed to proceed now as CDC have declined to respond to the request. They cannot say when this work will be done but it has now been programmed in to their plans.
- g) The Clerk asked a question, now that restrictions are being lifted, should we continue to have the playground sprayed every 30 days? All agreed this should continue, especially during the school summer holidays.

- h) The Clerk reported that the new webpage 'Green Bletchingdon' has been signed off by the group and will shortly go 'live'.
- i) A question was raised by D. Montrose, should we add the details with regards to the rules for attending Parish meetings to the website? All agreed this is a good suggested so the Clerk will do so.
- j) The volunteer who tidied up and repainted this inside of the Bus shelter has not been in touch to return to paint the masonry paint and anti-graffiti paint. As it still looks in good condition, all agreed to store the paint purchased until such a time that it needs doing again. No further action at this time.
- k) There has been no further comment from CDC Planning Department with regards to 24 St Giles but concerns are still being raised that a development is still ongoing when the planning application was refused. Therefore, all agreed the Clerk should contact CDC and ask them to visit the site to check all is in order.
- l) The new noticeboard has still not been erected and we are still waiting for the decision from the Planning Department. We have been assured by the developers that it should be up by the end of August 2021.

117/21 Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) matters/reports:

OCC N. Simpson reported that he has resolved the issue for Dedi Leach as the correct billing has now been arranged. Cllr Lane informed him that he has received another email from Dedi Leach to explain that although the debt has been removed from her name, she is still incorrectly attached to the land. OCC N. Simpson took a copy of the email and confirmed he will contact her to advise her to speak to the Land Registry. He went on to report that both Dave Catling and Mike Wasley have responded to the emails he has sent with regards to our traffic calming and parking issues and have requested to come out again. OCC N. Simpson will get some dates together and let us know.

The bollards for Station Road are on order and the developers have advised that they will put these up as soon as they arrive. In the meantime, Cllr M. Whitehead said he has 3 x temporary 'no stopping' cones which could be placed along the footpath. The Clerk will inform the store manager of our intentions.

OCC have a parking ticket initiative which will begin on the 1st November 2021. This will be paid for by OCC and in return, they would keep any revenue received from it. There are some big plans being put together with regards to the Oxpens Regeneration and the Corridor between Oxford and Cambridge.

There are plans to put traffic lights on the large roundabout as you enter Kidlington. Savills are putting together plans for development in Kidlington but currently based on old data. OCC raised this with them so they have agreed to re-do the information based on current data. The judicial review should be done by September 2021.

118/21 OCC Correspondence:

None.

119/21 Cherwell District Council (CDC) matters/reports:

CDC D. Hughes reported that most members of staff at CDC have been working remotely but are now starting to return and adjust to being back in the office. There have been a lot of changes and unfortunately a number of staff have left. Their focus has been on making sure the new homes are sustainable.

120/21 CDC Correspondence:

- a) The Cherwell Parish Bulletin was shared with everyone prior to the meeting. No further action.
- b) Draft statement of Community Involvement – public consultation was shared with everyone prior to the meeting. No further action.

121/21 Parish matters:

- a) **Public Transport** – The Parish Council (PC) received a report from Anne Maclachlan (Public Transport Representative/PTR), following a meeting she had attended. All agreed the report was thorough and clear. She had a couple of questions with regards to the best ‘next steps for example, would the PC be happy for her to survey the Parish? All agreed if she wants to proceed with a survey, could she send us a draft of what she intends to ask first and also to ask her to explain what the future bus service might look like in the survey to encourage engagement. This should include neighbouring Parishes such as Kirtlington, Weston, Enslow, Heathfield and Hampdon Poyle and probably best performed via leaflet drop. The Clerk will reply to the PTR accordingly.
- b) **Communication** – Parishioner D. Montrose assisted with putting together a new style of Village News article on behalf of the PC. All agreed with the content after drafts were provided and edited following feedback. The PC agreed to see what feedback we get from parishioners to take into consideration for future articles. It was also suggested that it might be best to refer to our website for ‘further information’ to help reduce the number of pages. It was also agreed that she should attend future meetings which fall just prior to the next article due date so that she is aware of the current affairs.
- c) **Traffic Calming** – Cllr C. Lane and Cllr M. Whitehead reported their ‘walk around’ meeting with OCC N. Simpson in Bletchingdon to show him the traffic and parking issues we have. A discussion was had about a possible one-way system around the Co-op could help. All agreed to raise this at the next meeting with Dave Catling and Mike Wasley.
- d) **Signage around the School** – No further news at this time.
- e) **Plastic Footpath** – The Parish Council continue to make enquiries into getting this temporary footpath replaced with a permanent, more attractive one and is therefore ongoing.
A discussion was then had about the condition of the Village Hall car park and grounds as they do not appear well maintained. In particular, there are a number of bollard/lights that have been knocked over and have left wires exposed as well as being a trip hazard. The benches look as though they need treating. The Clerk is to contact the Bletchingdon Community Foundation (BCF) to report these concerns.
CDC D. Hughes arrived at 8:40pm.
- f) **Enforcement Update – Hedgerows at Tollbrook Corner**
The Clerk has sent a letter to our MP with regards to the Hedgerows being replaced. An email copy has also gone to all of our CDC and OCC Cllrs. The Parish Cllrs will also be sent a copy.

Land South of Diamond Farm

The current state of the land is looking as though it is not strictly agricultural. The Clerk is to contact CDC and request that they come for a site visit to inspect it again before signing off this case.

The Digs and The Studio.

As there has been no update, the Clerk is to send CDC D. Hughes the details of this case for him to look into on our behalf.

The cattle sheds opposite The Rock of Gibraltar.

No further news at this time. The Clerk will contact CDC for an update.

Dollys Barn.

The Clerk is to send CDC D. Hughes the details on this case too as there has been no update from the enforcement team.

Cllr R. Pirie left the meeting at 8:55pm.

- g) **Replacement Dog Waste Bin on Weston Road and new one at the Stonehouse –** CDC will collect from the Stonehouse so the Clerk has ordered another dog waste bin. Once this has arrived, the Clerk will contact Jake Williams to request him to get them both installed.
- h) **Tree Survey –** The tree surgeon was instructed to start work on the trees highlighted as critical, 3 months and Horse Chestnut on the Green but the Clerk reported she has not heard anything since. Cllr C. Lane said he will follow this up.
- i) **Councillor Priority Funds (CPF) for the Bottle Bank enclosure –** The Clerk contacted OCC about the CPF and changing the funding for the evolved plans. They will consider this but have some caveats to this proposal. Before going ahead, the PC need to obtain agreement with the Sports and Social Club to install a container on site. Cllr M. Taylor and Cllr C. Lane are attending a meeting with them next week so will raise this then.
- j) **Parish Plan –** Cllr A. Jordan reported that this is still ongoing.
- k) **The Slipe –** Cllr C. Lane has not been able to contact the new land owners to request permission to use their access. As this land is now the responsibility of the BCF, this task should be passed on to them. All agreed the Clerk should contact the BCF and politely request that they do something about arranging access to the Slipe and make sure that it remains well maintained.
- l) **Benefactor –** Cllr A. Jordan reported that just prior to this meeting, Parishioner M. Webber circulated an email with plans for the new Bus Shelter for the PC to comment on. He requested that all Cllrs take time to look at these plans and share their views before replying. It was also suggested that the PC should stipulate that the new Bus Shelter must remain as Parish property. In the meantime, the Clerk is to investigate if planning permission was required when the original bus shelter was erected.
- m) **The Blacks Head pub to be put on Register of Asset of Community Value (ACV) –** Cllr D. Robins has submitted the application and said that we might have a response by the 6th September 2021.
- n) **Quarterly budget figures –** The Clerk circulated the Q1 budget figures to the Cllrs and Cllr D. Ledger reported that everything was in order. A discussion was had with regards to our traffic calming budget because it is still not known if it is sufficient as this is information we are waiting for from Dave Catling and Mike

Wasley. The Clerk is to try and push for this information as soon as possible and in particular, before our 2022/2023 budget meeting in November 2021.

o) Finance – The following payments were approved by the Parish Council.

Invoices for payment on the 30th July 2021

Method	Payee and Reason	Budget	Minute Ref	Amount	VAT	Total
Card purchase	Viking Direct UK – Purchase of 5 x A5 notebooks for taking minutes	General Admin	This Minute	£13.89	£2.78	£16.67
Cheque	Clean Slate – charitable donation	Donation	This Minute	£50.00	£0.00	£50.00
Bank TF	K J Cleaning Solutions Ltd – Invoice Number 1512 (10 th June 2021)	General Admin	This Minute	£60.00	£12.00	£72.00
Bank TF	K J Cleaning Solutions Ltd – Invoice Number 1529 (9 th July 2021)	General Admin	This Minute	£60.00	£12.00	£72.00
Bank TF	Glasdon UK Ltd – New dog waste bin for the Stonehouse.	Dog bin purchase and emptying	This Minute	£112.95	£22.59	£135.54
Bank TF	Green Scythe Limited – Grass cutting for 30 th June 2021	Grounds Maintenance	This Minute	£532.00	£106.40	£638.40

The Direct Debit to BT is due to go out on or just after 23rd July 2021 for £42.29 including VAT.

122/21 Planning Applications-

a) Planning Applications Approved/Refused:

21/01628/F – Land South of Springwell Close Adjacent to Station Road, Bletchingdon – Application for the erection of a two-storey dwelling with associated works and access (re-submission of 20/02870/F) – Refused.

21/02054/TCA – The Old Rectory, Weston Road, Bletchingdon OX5 3DH – T1 x Lime - Reduce by up to 5.0m. Due to over shadowing/suppression of younger trees below and reduce the risk of diametric pressure to the boundary wall. T2 x Birch - Fell. Due to close proximity to wall and suppression of younger trees. Refused.

21/01792/F – Mymms Cottage, Weston Road, Bletchingdon OX5 3DH – Demolition of single storey extension and erection of single storey side and rear extension. Refused.

21/01302/F – Stone Quarry House, Lince Lane, Kirtlington OX5 3AX – Removal of existing prefabricated single garage and erection of new garage in new location within boundary. Approved.

20/02342/REM – Land North of Station Road, Bletchingdon – Variation of Conditions 1 (supporting documents), 5 (boundary enclosures), 6 (means of access), 13 (surface water drainage scheme) and 14 (landscaping scheme) of 16/00362/F. Approved.

b) Planning Applications Received:

21/02202/TCA – Mrs Cadwallader – The Old Rectory, Weston Road, Bletchingdon OX5 3DH – G1 x 6 Conifer with falling stems poor form and unions, previous failed limb damage present, multiple hazard beam fractures and close proximity to wall and property – fell to ground level. No objections.

21/02221/CLUE – Executors of the Estate of the late Vincent Lawren – Manor House, Islip Road, Bletchingdon OX5 3DP – Certificate of Lawfulness for the Existing Use of the occupation of Manor House as a C3 dwelling by its owner occupant and their family in breach of condition 3 of planning permission NE.200/68. Objections. The comments to be reported to CDC are as follows;

The Parish Council believes that the property should remain a farm house with appropriate conditions to retain the agricultural ties to it and the adjacent land so therefore strongly objects to this planning application. There is some real concern that if the CLUE is approved, it will open the door to mass future development of that land and **set a precedent for other similar properties/land**. Our understanding is that this house was built with an agricultural tie, and should remain so, giving a person the opportunity to remain in the village, work in agriculture or horticulture at an affordable price. This property stands at the end of the village next to open countryside. The property has also been empty since parishioner Mr Kilkenny died, so the 10 year rule for default is not valid, due to it being empty and so reactivating the agricultural tie more recently. There is a great deal of public interest in this case so the Parish Council with the support of CDC D. Hughes therefore requests that this go to committee if it is not refused, so that we can comment.

21/02077/F – Mr P Heron – The Old Rectory, Weston Road, Bletchingdon OX5 3DH – Erection of replacement greenhouse. No objections.

c) Notification of a new Tree Preservation Order – One Lime Tree and One Birch Tree situated on Land at The Old Rectory, Weston Road, Bletchingdon OX5 3DH.

123/21 **Other Correspondence Received:**

- a) John Howell Newsletter. Shared with all, no further action.
- b) An email from Diane Bohm from Weston on the Green parish council about the Great Wolf Resort, asking for our support by writing protest letters. All agreed something asking our parishioners to do this should be put in the next Village News. The Clerk will add this to the next article.
- c) An email from CPRE inviting us to attend their virtual meeting on the 19th August 2021. Cllr D. Ledger confirmed he would like to attend. The Clerk is to send him the details.
- d) An email reply from Tony Saunders with regards to our Parish Plan. No further action.

- e) An email letter was received from a parishioner with a few questions about the parish. The Clerk is to reply.
- f) Cllr M. Taylor had received a letter from a parishioner who has come into hard times and is seeking the support from the PC. All agreed we will help him. The Clerk is to start making enquiries on his behalf.

124/21 Any Other Business:

- The trees that are on private land which run alongside Weston Road and overhanging and having an impact on the condition of the footpath. The Clerk is to contact the landowner and request that these be cut back.
- A community event being called the Bletch Bash is being organised and Cllr M. Taylor has asked if the PC could support this financially. All agreed this should be done. A donation of £400 was agreed upon with a condition that any leftover funds should be donated to the Church.

125/21 Items for information or next Agenda only - all items for next agenda to be submitted to the Clerk by Thursday 19th August 2021.

126/21 Date of Next Meeting: to confirm the date of the next meeting as 26th August 2021 at 7:30pm.

Meeting Ended : 10pm.