

BLETCHINGDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 28th July 2022 at 7:30pm

Present: Cllr C. Lane, Cllr M. Taylor, Cllr D. Robins, Cllr M. Whitehead, Cllr D. Ledger, Cllr N. Morris, District Cllr G. Coton, Public Transport Representative (PTR) A. Maclachlan and Parishioners Mr & Mrs R. Daly.

098/22 **Apologies:** Cllr C. Lane welcomed our new Cllr Nicola Morris to her first meeting. Prior to the meeting, County Cllr N. Simpson, District Cllr A. Patrick and Cllr R. Pirie gave their apologies.

099/22 **Declarations of Interest:** None.

100/22 **Public Participation:** None.

101/22 **To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 29th June 2022:** The Minutes were approved by all and signed by Cllr C. Lane.

102/22 **Clerks update on action points (not covered in Parish matters):**

- The clerk forwarded photographs of the front garden of 22 St Giles to Sanctuary housing for their investigation. They have confirmed receipt of these and will get back to us.
- Dave Catling has shared the plan/drawings of the traffic calming options but has still not quoted figures. The clerk has requested these figures again.
- The clerk completed the Councillor Priority Fund application for the costs for the storage unit which will now to be sent to County Cllr N. Simpson to sign off.
- CDC have confirmed to the Clerk that they will empty the new bins around new playground.
- The clerk spoke to Tony Saunders about cleaning the meeting room. He explained that it is due a deep clean and they have already sought a quote from a local company.
- A letter has been sent to the owners of Quincotts about their hedge and foliage. It was reported at the meeting that they have already dealt with this.
- The clerk has contacted both CDC and SGN about the bottle banks near the gas box. CDC have confirmed the paperwork is currently in their legal dept. A discussion was then had about the repeated risk of people leaving bags of glass on the dry grass when the bottle banks are full. It was agreed that photographs of this should be sent to the Fire Service to make them aware. The clerk is also to double check that it no longer matters what colour glass goes in which bank as this could be a solution to the problem.
- McAfee laptop subscription renewal is due in less than 90 days. The 2 year option costs £130 and the 1 year option costs £75. The clerk asked for Cllrs to approve their preferred term. All agreed to proceed with the two year option.

103/22 **Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) matters/reports:**

- None

104/22 **OCC Correspondence:**

- a) None.

105/22 **Cherwell District Council (CDC) matters/reports:**

- District Cllr G. Coton reported that the Stratfield Break survey is going up now.

- There was a full Council meeting on the 18th July 2022 and during which, 3 motions were passed.
 - i) A food poverty emergency has been declared,
 - ii) A cost of living crisis has been declared, and
 - iii) With regards to the refugee crisis, they have passed a motion to declare that families will be supported for as long as they need to be.

She then asked that we let CDC know of any residents now or in the future who may need some assistance through the cost of living crisis.

District Cllr G. Coton and Parishioners Mr & Mrs R. Daly left the meeting at 7:55pm.

106/22 CDC Correspondence:

- a) Cherwell Parish Bulletin. A discussion was had with regards to the new Code of Conduct which all Cllrs have now reviewed. All agreed to adopt the new Code of Conduct with effect from today.
With regards to the grants available through the Screwfix Foundation, the details of which are to be shared with Cllr M. Taylor to make the Bletchingdon Charity aware for any community projects that might benefit.

107/22 Parish matters:

- a) **The Row** – Cllr D. Ledger reported for the record the reply received from Green Square Accord which was shared prior to the meeting. This was too vague and not satisfactory. It was agreed that the Parish Council will invite Green Square Accord to a separate meeting to discuss in further detail and challenge their decision. Cllr D. Ledger will arrange this meeting.
- b) **Green Bletchingdon** – A. Maclachlan gave a brief update. She has recently attended a meeting hosted by ‘Trees Collaborate’ and has heard about the Treescape Opportunity Report currently available free of charge. The clerk confirmed that the Parish Council has just received ours and all agreed A. Maclachlan could have a copy. She would like to request an on-site meeting at some point, to check the suitability of the potential location adjacent to the allotments. The Parish Council put forward another possible site, Hodgman’s Spinney, and another down from the Co-op on the opposite side of the road.
- c) **Bletchingdon Bus Service** – Our PTR gave her report on the latest information made available by OCC, which is now in the public domain. It is likely that the 250 bus service will become what is known as a DRT (Demand Responsive Transport) service. A discussion was had about how best to prepare and explain this type of service for our Parishioners, when the time comes. For now, any other concerns the Cllrs think of can be emailed to A. Maclachlan and she will feed these back to OCC.
- d) **Bletchingdon School Hedge replacement** – No further news at this time.
- e) **Neighbourhood Plan (NP)** – Cllr D. Ledger reported the progress made to date. The official application has been submitted which has now kick started a 13 week consultation period. The clerk has already shared a copy of the Treescape Opportunity Report with the Cllrs which could be useful for the NP. Cllr D. Ledger also reported that there are grants available to go towards the costs involved, which are being looked into. He has also obtained a landowner plan which needs checking.

- f) **Benefactor** – Cllr C. Lane shared a reply from Mr P. Lawson. The current projects are progressing, (The Bush Shelter, Entrance Walls and The Blacks Head pub) but no further details have been provided at this time.
- g) **Communication** – The latest village news article was shared with all prior to the deadline and approved for publication.
- h) **Traffic Calming** –
Full width speed humps – Dave Catling has shared some plan information for the work but still has not broken down the cost. The clerk has already requested this again.
20 MPH Speed Limit – The application is still pending Highways OCC. In the meantime, all agreed Cllr M. Whitehead can put up the '20 is Plenty' road sides and start to record speeds, which will not be reported but will hopefully act as a deterrent to speeders.
- i) **Plastic Footpath** – No further news at this time.
- j) **Enforcement Update** –
Ingleby Farm – Under investigation at CDC.
New House, St. Giles – Breach of condition 1 of 20/02474/OUT
- k) **New Storage Unit** – The application for funding has been completed and is to be sent to County Cllr N. Simpson for signing off. The clerk will do this. D H Landscaping will begin on the ground work as soon as possible.

PTR A. MacLachlan left the meeting at 8:35pm.

- l) **Recreation Ground maintenance, installation of artificial lawn, and Adult Gym** – Kompan Ltd have provided the date of the 5th September 2022 to complete their work. The artificial lawn is being dealt with. The grass around the village has not been cut for some time due to how dry it has been. It is also too dry to spray the weeds. It was discussed and all agreed to ask Green Scythe Ltd to come next week to tidy things up and see if they will be willing to strim the weeds around Annesley Close too. Cllr C. Lane will contact Green Scythe Ltd to arrange this. Cllr D. Ledger gave an update with regards to the Adult Gym. The best location would be at the small playground owned by CDC, where the unused children's play equipment could be removed. He will make enquiries with CDC to see if they would be willing for these changes to be made.
- m) **Maintenance around Village Hall** – No further action at this time.
- n) **Tree Maintenance and shoots on The Green** – Cllr C. Lane reported that now would be a good time to cut the shoots on the trees on The Green. All agreed for this to go ahead.
- o) **The Slipe** – A discussion was had about the response from the BCF with regards their plans, or lack of, for The Slipe. All agreed to write another letter to all of the Trustees. Cllr C. Lane will write a draft on behalf of the Parish Council which will be circulated to all for approval.
- p) **Remembrance Sunday** – Cllr C. Lane asked if all would be in agreement to purchase a 'Lest we Forget' Soldier silhouette for The Green. All approved this purchase. The clerk is to contact the Church warden who has details of where these can be purchased from.
- q) **Finance** – The following payments itemised on the payment schedule for July 2022 were all approved by the Parish Council.

Method	Payee and Reason	Budget	Minute Ref	Amount	VAT	Total
Bank TF	Church – donation towards mowing costs	Church Grant	This Minute	£800.00	£0.00	£800.00
Bank TF	Village News – Donation to printing costs	Donations	This Minute	£400.00	£0.00	£400.00
Bank TF	Green Scythe Ltd – Grass cutting for June 2022	Grounds Maintenance	This Minute	£653.58	£130.72	£784.30
Bank TF	Cherwell District Council – Parish Election Charges	General Admin	This Minute	£100.00	£0.00	£100.00

The Direct Debit to BT is due to go out on or just after 23rd July 2022 for £45.47 including VAT.

The Quarter One Report was also shared with the Councillors prior to the meeting and discussed with the finance payments above. Everything is on track with the year to date budget.

108/22 Planning Applications-

- a) Planning Applications Approved/Refused/Withdrawn:
 - 22/00724/F – Manor House, Islip Road, Bletchingdon OX5 3DP – Agricultural storage building. Approved.
 - 22/00071/F – 2 Lenthal, Bletchingdon OX5 3EP – Division of existing 3 bed house into two dwellings. The main house (2) to be a two bed house and the second house (2a) to become a 1 bed house and associated works. Approved.
 - 22/01640/LB – 1 Bletchingdon Park Stables, Church End, Bletchingdon OX5 3DN – Internal alterations to services (inc replace water heater and cylinder, replace radiators, re-wire electrics) and internal alterations to chimney breast inc raising lintel. Approved.
- b) Planning Applications Received:
 - 22/01846/TPO – Bletchingdon Community Foundation – Allotments, Oxford Road, Bletchingdon - Lime x5/Field Maple x8 Raise crown height overhanging layby to 4 meters high and over Oxford Road to an approximate height of 5 meters from ground level (Statutory highway height clearance) Contract specifics: The work will primarily target the removal of pruning of second branches, entire branch removal will be kept to a minimum to achieve the necessary height. No objections.
 - 22/01542/F – Mr P Jarvis – Former Heathfield Cattery, Street Through Heathfield Village, Heathfield, Kidlington OX5 3DX - Change of Use with physical alterations including part demolition; part roof alterations; part replacement of external walling and new external elevations of the former Heathfield Cattery to form a single dwelling. No objections.
 - 22/01911/F – Shimao Nie – Green Barn, Ingleby Farm, Ingleby Paddocks, Enslow, OX5 3ET – Two storey extension to existing storage barn. Objection. A discussion was had about this and planning application 22/01903/F below. Although these applications are in separate names, the applicants have a connection and the address of each is in the same location. This information is to be passed on to CDC.

22/01903/F – Nigel Ozier – Ingleby Farm, Ingleby Paddocks, Enslow OX5 3ET – Single storey garden studio/outbuilding within the curtilage of the existing dwelling/house. Objection, as above. It would appear that the applicant is in breach of the terms and conditions of 06/02334/F at this property so this will also be reported to CDC for them to investigate too.

- c) 21/02214/F – A discussion was had about the retrospective planning application from Cherwell Concrete, where a committee meeting to make a decision on this case continues to be postponed. There is some concern that planning officers have changed and that Highways are re-considered their original response. The Parish Council asked District Cllr G. Coton to make some enquiries on our behalf to which she agreed. She will also see if a sound test can be performed at a residence close by. In the meantime, her advice to the Parish Council is to continue to put in our concerns and objections. The clerk and chairman will respond on this case again.

109/22 Other Correspondence Received:

- a) John Howell Newsletter. Shared with all, no further action.
- b) An email from Anji Hall at Clean Slate requesting a donation. All agreed a donation of £50 as the Parish Council have done before. The Council used the powers under section S137 of the Local Government Act in order to grant this donation.
- c) An email from Steve King from Citizens Advice North Oxford asking for our help by advertising their services and/or making a donation. All agreed to assist with their cause by sharing their details in the next Village News and displaying the posters provided on our noticeboards and on our website. The clerk will arrange this.
- d) C. Lane received a letter from the Chair of Weston on the Green Parish Council offering support with our NP and also raising a concern they have. Large vehicles are not using the designated route to return to the A34 when leaving Staplehurst Farm and are instead attempting to drive through the narrow streets of Weston on The Green, often causing traffic delays. All agreed to support their suggestion for putting a sign up to show the preferred route.

110/22 Report from meeting/Any Other Business:

- A bad smell has been reported on Oxford Road. The clerk is to report this to the authorities.
- The front garden of 40 St Giles has not been maintained for a long time and is in need of care. The clerk is to report this to Sanctuary Housing.
- A discussion was had about Electrical Vehicle (EV) charging points in the Village and possible, suitable locations. The Village Hall continues to be highlighted as the best location. Cllr. D. Robins will raise the question again with the Village Hall.
- A post has been knocked down again on the Finger Piece. Cllr C. Lane will investigate.

111/22 Items for information or next Agenda only - all items for next agenda to be submitted to the Clerk by Thursday 18th August 2022.

112/22 Date of Next Meeting: to confirm the date of the next meeting as 25th August 2022 at 7:30pm at the Village Hall.

Meeting Ended: 9:45pm.