

MINUTES OF THE BLOXHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD AT JUBILEE HALL, BLOXHAM ON WEDNESDAY 23 MARCH 2022 AT 7.30PM

PRESENT: Chairman Councillor Leonard Leigh; Councillors Joanna Barton, David Bunn and Stephen Phipps.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: District Councillor Adam Nell and six members of the public.

APOLOGIES: County Councillor Kieron Mallon.
Robert Aplin, Belinda Ellis, Daniel Goodwin, Bee Myson and Olwen Smith.

- 1/22 MINUTES** - The minutes of the meeting held on 22 April 2021 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
- 2/22 MATTERS ARISING** - There were no matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 22 April 2021.
- 3/22 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT** – Prior to the meeting, the Chairman's report had been published on the Parish Council's web site and the report detailed the Parish Council's activities over the last 12 months.
- 4/22 PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNT 2021/2022** – The Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer presented to the Annual Parish Meeting, the financial report for 2021/2022. The figures were subject to internal audit, however they gave an accurate picture of the activities of the year. There were no items of clarification. The accounts for year ended 31 March 2022 were available on the Parish Council web site.
- 5/22 REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS** – District Councillor Adam Nell reported that Cherwell District Council's shared services with the County Council had been decoupled. He also advised that Castle Quay Phase 2 should be opening in the next couple of months, which would regenerate the town centre area.

The Local Plan had been updated and the Parish Council had submitted a detailed response. Councillor Nell also endorsed the Bloxham Neighbourhood Development Plan.

The Local Cycling and Walking Investment Plan would suggest improvements to cycleways and footpaths and the consultation process would be starting shortly.

- 6/22 RESIDENTS QUESTIONS** – *Residents were invited to ask questions on any issue concerning Bloxham*

Questions Received in Advance:

1. *I am concerned regarding pedestrian safety opposite the primary school along Tadmorton Road. There is no pedestrian crossing from the new car park or the Woodlands housing estate to the school and 'near misses' can be observed on any day of the week at school drop off and collection times. How can we begin the process of establishing a crossing here?*

The Chairman reported that the Traffic Calming Working Party had engaged with the County Council to discuss a number of traffic improvements. This suggestion was on the list and the County Council was aware of this and it was a project that the Parish Council supported.

The Parish Council also had concerns about the surfacing of the car park and this needed addressing.

2. *I would like to thank Bloxham Parish Council for the support given to Great Big Green Week last year. In the light of the fact that the Parish Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2020, what progress has been made since then towards making Bloxham a more sustainable village, and what plans are being made for the coming year for greater sustainability.*

Councillor David Bunn reported that Climate Emergency had been linked with 'Big Green Week' supported by the Bloxham Biodiversity Group. The Parish Council would also be considering the 'No Mow in May' initiative at its meeting on 4 April 2022.

3. A resident asked where details could be obtained with regard to helping Ukrainian refugees. District Councillor Adam Nell reported that information was available on the 'Homes for Ukraine' Scheme, on the District Council's web site and the Government had also published outline guidance.

7/22 Priorities for Bloxham and the new Parish Council 2022-2026 – Parish Councillor David Bunn advised the meeting on why the Parish Council wanted to engage with the community and develop priorities for the new Council.

Residents were invited to participate in a short workshop to identify the meeting's priorities for Bloxham to help guide the incoming 2022-2026 Parish Council's work plan.

The feedback from the residents indicated that the priorities should be (1) parking issues (2) traffic calming (3) community events and activities, and (4) Bloxham Good Neighbour Guide.

There was a discussion about these four priorities and it was agreed that the Parish Council would consider widening the consultation process on the priorities.

8/22 Call for New Parish Councillors for the 2022-2026 Parish Council - Residents received information from Councillor David Bunn about the work the Parish Council did and how they could become involved in its work to ensure Bloxham was a great place to live, work and visit. Councillor Bunn also advised on the role of a Parish Councillor and the timescales for candidates to submit their nomination papers to Cherwell District Council in readiness for the elections in May 2022.

9/22 Thanks and Close of Meeting – The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting.

(The meeting closed at 8.50pm)

Chairman
April 2023