

BLOXHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT JUBILEE HALL, BARLEY CLOSE, BLOXHAM ON MONDAY 1 JUNE 2026 AT 7.00PM

PRESENT: Chairman, Councillor Alex Harrison; Councillors Joanna Barton, David Bunn, Mike Fenner, Neil Hegarty, Richard Morley, David Morris and Laura Noakes.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Theresa Goss (Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer), County/District Councillor David Hingley, District Councillor Rob Pattenden and five members of the public.

21/26 Apologies – Parish Councillor Amanda Baxter submitted her apologies because she had another appointment.

Parish Councillor David Morris submitted his apologies because he was at work.

Parish Councillor Nick Rayner submitted his apologies because he was on holiday.

Resolved that the apologies from Councillors Amanda Baxter, David Morris, Nick Rayner be accepted and the absences authorised.

22/26 Declarations of Interest – There were no declarations of interest.

23/26 Minutes – Prior to the meeting, the minutes of the meeting held on 11 May 2026 had been circulated to the Parish Council and were taken as read.

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 11 May 2026 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

24/26 Matters Arising

Minute Number 7/26, Chairman's Announcements, Unofficial Public Right of Way Painters Close to Winters Way – The Chairman advised that he was yet to contact County/District Councillor David Hingley regarding this matter, but would do so shortly. **Action AH**

25/26 Chairman's Announcements

- Thames Water Treatment Works – A meeting/tour had been arranged for 29 July 2026 and the Chairman would be attending with Councillor Neil Hegarty, along with Adderbury Parish Councillors Diane Bratt and Simon Davies and District Councillor Rob Pattenden.

A resident had made a request to attend the meeting too, however the Clerk advised that five people was the maximum number. The Clerk would contact Thames Water and check whether there was flexibility with the number of attendees. **Action TG**

- Adult Gym Equipment at Jubilee Park – Quotes had now been received for the proposed footpath to the adult gym equipment and the removal of the goal posts. The Clerk had obtained the application form which needed to be submitted to Cherwell District Council to access the Section 106 funds. It was noted that the funds had been allocated to Milcombe, however Milcombe Parish Council had been consulted and had no objection to the funds being used for this project. **Action AH/TG**
- Barford Road Planning Application – The application was being considered by the Planning Committee on Thursday 4 June 2026 and Councillor David Bunn agreed to address the meeting in respect of the Parish Council's objection. District Councillor Rob Pattenden would be addressing the Committee in objection too. It was highlighted that the Ministry of Defence (MoD) would only allow the application to be approved, if there was a condition stating that none of the properties on the new development had solar panels due to close proximity to the MoD site at Barford St John. However, this request was contrary to Cherwell District Council's own policy on solar panels and this would be highlighted by Councillor Rob Pattenden when he addressed the Planning Committee.

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It was also highlighted that the Planning Officer's report was incorrect and did not give enough weight to the Bloxham Neighbourhood Plan because there was no detail regarding the Plan having been through the examination process and would shortly be considered by Cherwell District Council's Executive and then onto a Referendum.

The Clerk was requested to highlight this to Christina Cherry, Planning Policy Officer and Nick Wyke, planning case officer for the application. If necessary, an email would also be sent to all the Cherwell District Council Planning Committee members, highlighting the matter. **Action TG**

- CPR and Defib Training – Another CPR and defib training course, funded by the Parish Council and facilitated by volunteers from the South Central Ambulance Charity would be held on 15 July 2026, 7pm to 9pm at Jubilee Hall.

26/26 Open Forum – A resident asked for clarification regarding the agenda item relating to the transfer of land to extend The Slade. The Clerk advised that further information had been requested but not received and therefore, the Parish Council could not provide any additional information at the current time.

A resident raised the issue of the proposed new drain line to be installed underneath the Bloxham School car park on Workhouse Lane/Courtington Lane.

County/District Councillor David Hingley reported that the County Council had committed to funding the project, however the tenders which had been received, were in excess of the original budget. The project had been value engineered, however it was still over budget. Due to commercial sensitivities, Councillor Hingley was unable to confirm the shortfall amount, however he would seek clarification from the County Council officers and liaise with the Parish Council. He was currently investigating further sources of funding which he suggested could come from grants, the County Council, Cherwell District Council, Bloxham School and the Parish Council. A resident present at the meeting, offered to donate his own money to the project if it would help to progress the works. The Parish Council thanked the resident for his offer, but hoped it would not be required.

Councillor Hingley encouraged residents to continue to write to the County Council regarding this matter and show their support for the project.

Following a discussion, it was agreed that Councillor Hingley would continue his investigations into the additional funding and a meeting would also be arranged with Bloxham School to discuss the matter further. **Action DB/AH**

The residents were thanked for addressing the Council.

(For information, following guidance from the National Association of Local Councils, the Parish Council did not specifically name individual residents within its' minutes, unless they were speaking in an official capacity)

27/26 Reports from County and District Councillors – County/District Councillor David Hingley reported that the County Council would be completing gully clearance in Bloxham in October 2026. There had also been reports of increased fly-tipping in the area, especially in Milton and residents were encouraged to report these to the County Council's Fix My Street website or report them directly to Councillor Hingley.

A Warm Homes Grant Scheme had been established and low income families were encouraged to apply to ensure they could heat their homes sufficiently during the winter.

There was a new Leader at Oxfordshire County Council, Councillor Tim Bearder. Councillor Hingley reported that he had stood down as Leader of Cherwell District Council to allow himself more time to focus on local issues. He was now the Portfolio Holder for Finance.

Councillor Hingley advised that CDC's Executive would be considering the Bloxham Neighbourhood Plan in June 2026.

Councillor David Bunn asked Councillor Hingley about the new 'Quiet Lanes' policy. Councillor Hingley advised that these would only be implemented at the request of small, quiet communities and would not affect Bloxham. Councillor Bunn also reminded Councillor Hingley about the decision by the County Council to change the speed

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limit on Ells Lane which had been approved by the County Council approximately 12 months ago, but had not been implemented. **Action DH**

District Councillor Rob Pattenden reported that he was no longer Portfolio Holder for Healthy Communities. His new Portfolio was Property. However, he would make contact with Tom Gubbins at CDC regarding the Bloxham Insight Profile which Mr Gubbins was dealing with.

Councillor Pattenden also reported that he had received a response from Richard Penn, Area Director for the Environment Agency (EA) regarding the discharge of sewage into the Brook by Thames Water. The response had been sent to the Clerk for forwarding to the Parish Councillors. A number of his queries had been answered, but Councillor Pattenden would be responding to Mr Penn with additional queries.

It was highlighted that although the EA had acknowledged that Thames Water had breached the terms of their permits regarding the sewage discharge into the Brook, there had not been any enforcement action by the EA. There had also been an upgrade to the treatment works approximately three years ago, but nothing had changed because there was still discharge from the site into the Brook and Thames Water lorries continued to travel through the village. In addition, the treatment works could not cope with the sewage it already had to process and further housing in the village would exasperate the situation further.

Resolved that the reports be noted.

28/26 Environment/Village Matters

- i) Flooding – Councillor Neil Hegarty reported that four drains opposite the Primary School were completely blocked with debris. These had been reported to Fix My Street about two weeks ago and they were still under investigation.

Councillor Hegarty reported that the funding agreement with the County Council for the Natural Flood Management project at The Slade had been completed. Thames 21 would be guiding the works, which would start later in the year, after nesting season.

The report on the Natural Flood Management options in the Bloxham area had been published on the Parish Council's website and there would be a meeting next week to discuss the proposed works.

Resolved that the report be noted.

- ii) Traffic Calming Working Group – Prior to the meeting, Councillor Richard Morley had circulated the minutes of the meeting held on 18 May 2026.

Councillor Morley highlighted that the Community Speed Watch sessions had initially been taking place in the morning, however afternoon sessions had now been arranged to enable a comparison. There would be a focus on Courtington Lane and the A361.

The project to replace the 30mph VAS' with 20mph VAS' was still in progress and Councillor Morley and the Clerk were in contact with the contractors.

Inconsiderate parking leaflets were ready to be distributed in the village and all Councillors were provided with a number of leaflets to attach to vehicles which were parked incorrectly.

A walk of the village had been completed with Andy Warren from Oxfordshire County Council and he was investigating whether Section 106 funds could be allocated for projects in the village.

Contact had been made with Sustrans regarding an update of their report, but as yet, no response had been received.

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Parents of Bloxham School children were still parking on Stonehill when they were not permitted to do so. This would be raised with Tim Seton at Bloxham School.

Councillor David Bunn highlighted to Councillor David Hingley the request regarding forward funding of Section 106 funds by the County Council for traffic calming measures, including a second crossing by the Primary School.

Resolved that the report be noted.

- iii) Health and Wellbeing Working Group – The Chairman reported that he had emailed a number of organisations regarding an inception meeting and he was also waiting for a reply from Tom Gubbins at Cherwell District Council. The inception meeting was scheduled for Friday 5 June 2026.

Resolved that the report be noted.

- iv) Community Events – In the absence of Councillor Amanda Baxter, this matter was deferred to the next meeting.

Resolved that this matter be deferred to the next meeting of the Parish Council. **Action AB/TG**

29/26

Planning

- i) Planning Applications/Works to Trees – Prior to the meeting, the details of the planning applications/works to trees which had been considered by the Parish Council, since the last meeting, had been circulated.

Resolved that, it be noted and approved that no objections have been made by the Parish Council in respect of the following planning applications/works to trees:

26/00786/F Fir Tree, Yew Tree Farm, The Ridgeway, Bloxham
RETROSPECTIVE - Sub-division of Fir Trees dwelling and garage/studio to form four separate residential units (Use Class C3 (dwellinghouse))

26/01018/F Bridge Court, Little Bridge Road, Bloxham,
Demolition of existing single storey garage. Single storey side extension. Rear verandah and front canopy. External window and material changes.

Resolved that, it be noted and approved that objections have been made by the Parish Council in respect of the following planning application:

26/00836/F 19 Milton Road, Bloxham
Detached double garage and outbuilding for pool

Resolved that, it be noted and approved that observations have been made by the Parish Council in respect of the following planning applications/works to trees: None

Resolved that, it be noted that the Parish Council is considering the following planning applications/works to trees:

26/01179/TPO The Poplars, Barford Road, Bloxham
Tree works

- ii) Results of Planning Applications – The Parish Council noted decisions made by Cherwell District Council since the last meeting of the Parish Council.

Resolved that the report be noted.

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- iii) Bloxham Neighbourhood Development Plan – The Chairman reported that the Plan would be considered by Cherwell District Council's Executive in June 2026. Once it had been approved, there would be village referendum.

Councillor David Hingley highlighted that the Examiner had suggested that the number of bungalows should be reduced from 20 down to 12 and Councillor Hingley asked whether that was acceptable to the Parish Council so that he could feed the response back to Cherwell District Council.

Following a discussion, Councillors felt that to avoid any delays with the Plan, the recommendation by the Examiner be accepted.

Resolved that:

- 1) consideration of the Plan by Cherwell District Council's Executive be approved;
- 2) following approval by Cherwell District Council, the Plan be progressed to a village Referendum; and
- 3) the recommendation by the Examiner for a reduction of bungalows from 20 to 12 be approved.

30/26 Parish Council Matters

- i) Drop-In and Chat – The next session was being held on 13 June 2026.

Resolved that the report be noted.

- ii) Social Media Platforms & Communications – Councillor Mike Fenner reported on his review of the Parish Council website and communications. He suggested that social media posts needed to be undertaken regularly and the website could also be updated to be more user friendly.

Resolved that the website be refreshed and made more user friendly and Facebook posts be published regularly to increase visibility in the village. **Action TG/ALL**

- iii) Future 'Capstone' Projects – The Parish Council discussed possible future 'capstone' projects in the village which could be funded by the Parish Council.

It was suggested that the two projects which funds could be allocated to, once more information was available, were the proposed access from Greenhills Park to Winters Way and the drain line underneath the Bloxham School car park on Workhouse Lane/Courtington Lane.

Resolved that the report be noted.

- iv) Access from Greenhills Park to Winters Way – The Parish Council discussed the proposal for an access from Greenhills Park to Winters Way.

Following a discussion, it was agreed that before a decision could be made, the owner of the land in Winters Way needed to be identified to enable the feasibility of the project to be discussed.

Resolved that:

- 1) Councillor Joanna Barton to lead the investigation into the feasibility of a project to create an access/bridge from Winters Way to Greenhills Park; and
- 2) the owner of the land be confirmed prior to any further progress on the project being made. **Action TG**

31/26 Finance

- i) Financial Matters – Prior to the meeting, a number of financial documents had been circulated to the Parish Council.

Resolved that:

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- 1) the accounts for payment be approved, as detailed in appendix 1 to the minutes;
- 2) the receipts since the last meeting, the uncashed payments & uncashed receipts and the bank reconciliation, as at 1 June 2026 for the bank accounts at Unity Trust Bank be noted; and
- 3) it be noted that Councillor Joanna Barton, as Councillor for monitoring the Parish Council's internal controls, will sign the uncashed payments list, the uncashed receipts list, the bank reconciliation as at 31 May 2026 and the Unity Trust bank statements for May 2026.

- ii) Budget Monitoring 2026/2027 – Prior to the meeting, the Parish Council received budget monitoring report for 2026/2027.

Resolved that the report be noted.

- iii) General, Ring-Fenced and Ear-Marked Reserves 2026/2027 – The Parish Council considered its reserves for 2026/2027.

Resolved that the report be noted.

32/26 Correspondence – There was no further correspondence.

33/26 Exclusion of the Public and Press

Resolved that in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the minutes numbered 34/26 & 35/26 on the grounds that it could involve the likely disclosure of private and confidential information which was not in the public domain.

34/26 Disused Railway Line Land Adjacent to The Slade – The Parish Council discussed an offer of land proposed to be gifted to the Parish Council, for incorporation into The Slade.

Resolved that this matter be deferred for further information. **Action TG**

35/26 Staffing Expenses – The Parish Council considered a revision to the Clerk's mileage reimbursement rate, following the Government's decision to increase the tax-free mileage rate from 45p per mile to 55p per mile, backdated to 1 April 2026.

Resolved that the mileage rate for the Clerk's expenses, be increased from 45p per mile to 55p per mile, back dated to 1 April 2026. **Action TG**

(The public were invited back into the meeting at the conclusion of this item)

36/26 Meeting Dates – The Chairman reported that the next Parish Council meetings would be held at Jubilee Hall, Barley Close, Bloxham, commencing at 7.00pm.

Resolved that it be noted that, future meeting dates of Bloxham Parish Council are as stated below.

- Monday 6 July 2026
- Monday 3 August 2026
- Monday 7 September 2026
- Monday 5 October 2026
- Monday 2 November 2026
- Monday 7 December 2026

27/26 Items for Future Agendas/Items of Information

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- Purchase of devices to monitor pollution levels

(The meeting ended at 9.00pm)

Chairman – 6 July 2026

DRAFT