

# **BLOXHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

## **MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT JUBILEE HALL, BARLEY CLOSE, BLOXHAM ON MONDAY 1 SEPTEMBER 2025 AT 7.00PM**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Russell Avens, Joanna Barton, Amanda Baxter, Mike Fenner, Alex Harrison, Neil Hegarty, Richard Morley, David Morris, Laura Noakes and Nick Rayner.

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

**69/25 Appointment of Chairman 2025/2026** – Councillor Alex Harrison was proposed and seconded as Chairman for 2025/2026.

**Resolved** that Alex Harrison be appointed as Chairman of the Parish Council for 2025/2026.

The Chairman then signed the Acceptance of Office.

**68/25 Apologies** – Parish Councillor Laura Noakes submitted her apologies because she had another appointment.

**Resolved** that the apologies from Parish Councillor Laura Noakes be accepted and the absence authorised.

**70/25 Declarations of Interest** – There were no declarations of interest.

**71/25 Statements from the Parish Council** – The Chairman read out to the meeting, the Parish Council's statement with regard to the abuse which the Councillors individually and the Parish Council collectively, had received with regard to the Draft Modified Bloxham Neighbourhood Plan and the resulting resignation of David Bunn as Chairman of the Parish Council and as a Councillor.

A statement had also been published earlier that day relating to the mis-information which had been circulated in the village relating to the Plan.

The Chairman and Councillors expressed their disappointment at the actions and behaviour of some members of the community and hoped that the statement would draw a line under it.

**72/25 Minutes** – Prior to the meeting, the minutes of the meeting held on 4 August 2025 had been circulated to the Parish Council and were taken as read.

**Resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 4 August 2025 be approved.

**73/25 Matters Arising** – There were no matters arising.

**74/25 Chairman's Announcements** – There were no Chairman's Announcements.

**75/25 Open Forum** – The Chairman reminded residents that Parish Council meetings were open the public to attend and listen to the debate, but they were not public meetings. The Parish Council would not participate in debates with members of the public and any questions which were raised during the Open Forum, would be responded to after the meeting. The forum for comments, questions and discussion on the Draft Modified Bloxham Neighbourhood Plan were the two remaining information sessions being held on 3 September 2025 and 13 September 2025.

A resident addressed the Parish Council with regard to the two statements which had been published regarding the abuse which Councillors had been subjected to in respect of the Draft Modified Bloxham Neighbourhood Plan and also the mis-information relating to the Plan. He thanked the Councillors for all their work on behalf of the silent majority in the village.

A resident asked the Parish Council whether Councillors' photographs and some brief information on each Councillor could be included on the Parish Council web site. Councillors agreed to investigate this matter in due course. **Action TG**

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A resident advised that since the speed camera on High Street had been removed, speeding through the village had increased and requested that the speed camera be reinstated. It was also requested that the number and size of the Community Speed Watch Scheme signs were increased. **Action TG/RM**

Another resident gave their support to the Parish Council for all its hard work.

The Chairman thanked residents for addressing the Parish 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)*

**76/25 Reports from County and District Councillors** – County/District Councillor David Hingley stated that he was sorry David Bunn had stepped down from the Parish Council as he had worked very hard for the community and the village and he passed his thanks to David for all his efforts. Councillor Hingley also congratulated Alex Harrison on his appointment as the new Chairman. Councillor Hingley offered to meet with the Chairman from time to time to discuss matters affecting Bloxham.

Councillor Hingley reported that the County Council would be responding to the Parish Council's consultation on the Draft Modified Bloxham Neighbourhood Plan and officers would share their response with him next week.

Councillor Hingley was meeting with Parish Councillor Laura Noakes on 15 September 2025 to discuss the traffic issues outside of the Primary School.

At Cherwell District Council's Planning Committee, Councillor Hingley would highlight any specific issues which the Parish Council had in respect of the planning application on Barford Road, if these were brought to his attention prior to the meeting.

District Councillor Rob Pattenden was also sorry that David Bunn had resigned from the Parish Council and stated that many people did not realise the hard work involved with being a Parish Councillor, including fighting against speculative planning applications.

Councillor Rob Pattenden also reported that there was an ongoing issue with funding at Cherwell District Council (CDC) because business rates which were being collected by CDC would now be redistributed across the country by the Government, which resulted in CDC losing up to 40% of its funding, which was approximately £16m over four years. The Government was being lobbied on this policy and a response was being awaited.

The Chairman thanked the Councillors for their reports and support.

### **77/25 Environment/Village Matters**

- i) Flooding – Councillor Neil Hegarty reported that the County Council's Section 19 Flooding Report had been published and was available on the Parish Council web site. The Flooding Working Group had met to discuss the report and Councillor Hegarty had produced a list of the matters to be investigated. This would also be published on the Parish Council web site.

Councillor Hegarty was thanked for his report.

**Resolved** that the report be noted.

- ii) Cycleway – Prior to the meeting, a request had been circulated to the Parish Council from a resident of Adderbury, regarding a cycleway from Adderbury to Bloxham.

**Resolved** that the cycleway be included in the Parish Council's Community Benefits List and a request also be submitted to Oxfordshire County Council to establish whether a cycleway on Milton Road was possible.

**Action TG**

### **78/25 Planning**

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- 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 observations had been made by the Parish Council in respect of the following planning applications/works to trees:

25/01761/TCA     Long Leys, Queen Street, Bloxham  
Tree works

25/01814/F        Weatherstone Cottage, 7 Courtington Lane, Bloxham  
Demolition of conservatory and garage, construction of single storey side and rear extension

25/01911/TCA     Rossili House, Kings Road, Bloxham,  
Tree works

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

**Resolved** that, it be noted and approved that observations had 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:

25/01747/F        76 Tadmarton Road, Bloxham  
Conversion of the roof and two storey rear extension

25/02053/TCA     The Chantry, Church Street, Bloxham  
Tree works

25/02098/F        Oaklands Secure Dog Walking, Bloxham Road, Milcombe  
RETROSPECTIVE - Change of Use to a secure dog walking field with parking area and timber field shelter

25/02202/TCA     2, Bradford Court, 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.

- iii) Bloxham Neighbourhood Development Plan – The Chairman reminded the Parish Council that the consultation was now in its final two weeks. There were further Drop-In and Chat information sessions on Wednesday 3 September 2025 from 7pm to 8pm and Saturday 13 September 2025 from 1030am to 1130am.

The Parish Council's statement correcting the mis-information relating to the Plan had been published earlier that day.

**Resolved** that the report be noted.

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### 78/25 Parish Council Matters

- i) Drop-In and Chat – The last session had been dedicated to the consultation for the Draft Modified Bloxham Neighbourhood Plan and all residents were encouraged to submit their comments by 15 September 2025.

**Resolved** that the report be noted.

- ii) Traffic Calming Working Group – The Parish Council considered the minutes of the Traffic Calming Working Group held on 28 July 2025. The minutes were available on the Parish Council web site.

It was also reported that the County Council was holding a Highways open day which Councillors had been invited to attend.

A meeting was being held on 15 September 2025 with County Councillor David Hingley and Bloxham Primary School to discuss traffic and parking issues around the school.

**Resolved** that:

- 1) the report be noted; and
- 2) the County Council be contacted about the lack of 20mph repeater signs on Barford Road, which has previously been highlighted to its officers. **Action TG**

### 79/25 Finance

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

**Resolved** that:

- 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 September 2025 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, has signed the uncashed payments list, the uncashed receipts list, the bank reconciliation as at 31 August 2025 and the Unity Trust bank statements for August 2025.

- ii) Budget Monitoring 2025/2026 – Prior to the meeting, the Parish Council received budget monitoring report for 2025/2026.

**Resolved** that the report be noted.

- iii) General, Ring-Fenced and Ear-Marked Reserves – Prior to the meeting, the general, ring-fenced, and ear-marked reserves had been circulated to the Parish Council.

**Resolved** that the report be noted and the reserves be approved.

- iv) Bank Signatories – The Parish Council reviewed the signatories on the Parish Council bank accounts.

**Resolved** that the bank signatories be confirmed as Councillors Russell Avens, Joanna Barton, Alex Harrison and Nick Rayner. **Action TG**

- v) External Auditors Report – Prior to the meeting, the External Auditor's Report for 2024/2025 and the Notice for the Conclusion of Audit for 2024/2025 had been circulated to the Parish Council.

**Resolved** that External Auditor's Report and the Conclusion of the Audit for 2024/2025 be noted.

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**80/25 Correspondence** – There was no further correspondence.

**81/25 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 82/25, 83/25 & 84/25 on the grounds that it could involve the likely disclosure of private and confidential information which was not in the public domain.

**82/25 Quote for Lights at St Mary's Church** – Councillor Nick Rayner reported that he was continuing to try and obtain quotes for the replacement lighting and would report back to the Parish Council in due course.

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

**83/25 Staffing Matters** – The Clerk reported that the National Joint Council for Local Government Services had reached a pay agreement and advised on the increase in salary for the Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer, which was back dated to 1 April 2025.

**Resolved** that the report be noted and salary for the Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer be amended to reflect the agreed increase and it be back dated to April 2025. **Action TG**

**84/25 Draft Modified Bloxham Neighbourhood Plan** – Prior to the meeting, a quote from the Parish Council's consultant had been circulated to the Parish Council for additional support to progress the Plan.

**Resolved** that the quote from ONH be approved. **Action TG**

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

**85/25 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 for Bloxham Parish Council are as stated below.

- Monday 6 October 2025
- Monday 3 November 2025
- Monday 1 December 2025

**86/25 Items for Future Agendas/Items of Information**

- Wildlife Corridors
- Purchase of devices to monitor pollution levels
- Quotes for lights at St Mary's Church
- Parish Councillor Responsibilities
- Christmas lights
- Rules for Public Participation at Parish Council Meetings
- Meeting with Sean Woodcock MP

(The meeting ended at 8.25pm)

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Chairman – 6 October 2025