

BLOXHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT JUBILEE HALL, BARLEY CLOSE, BLOXHAM ON MONDAY 2 FEBRUARY 2026 AT 7.00PM

PRESENT: Chairman, Councillor Alex Harrison; Councillors Joanna Barton, Mike Fenner, Richard Morley, Laura Noakes and Nick Rayner.

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

155/25 Apologies – Parish Councillor Amanda Baxter submitted her apologies because she was at work.

Parish Councillor Neil Hegarty submitted his apologies because he was on holiday.

Parish Councillor Stuart Hodge submitted his apologies because he had another appointment.

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

Resolved that the apologies from Parish Councillors Amanda Baxter, Neil Hegarty, Stuart Hodge and David Morris be accepted and the absences authorised.

156/25 Declarations of Interest – There were no declarations of interest.

157/25 Minutes – Prior to the meeting, the minutes of the meeting held on 5 January 2026 had been circulated to the Parish Council and were taken as read.

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 5 January 2026 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

158/25 Matters Arising

- Minute Number 141/25 - Meeting with Sean Woodcock MP – A response had been received from Sean Woodcock regarding the actions which had been agreed at the meeting in November 2025. The Parish Council agreed that the response would be shared with the public, upon request. **Action TG**
- 142/25 - Chairman's Announcements – Memorial Bench – The Chairman reported that the family of Bill Richardson had confirmed that they would like a recycled plastic for Bill's memorial bench. The Clerk was awaiting a response from the County Council regarding its positioning on the corner of Gascoigne Way/Barford Road.

159/25 Chairman's Announcements

- OALC Training, Leading Your Council – The Chairman and Councillor David Morris had attended this training session and the Chairman would be meeting with the Clerk to discuss some of the outcomes.
- Farmers Market – The event was held the previous weekend. There had been a very good attendance and it was well organised.
- Footpath between Painters Close and Winters Way – A resident had reported that the footpath between Winters Way and Painters Close had been blocked by residents due to anti-social behaviour caused by young people. The County Council would be contacted about this matter. **Action TG**
- David Tyrrell Recreation Ground – The meeting with the Trustees held on 26 January 2026 had gone well and further details would be provided later in the meeting.
- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) – The Clerk and Councillor Nick Rayner had attended this online session organised by Neil Homer at ONH and the documents had been circulated by email to the Councillors.

160/25 Open Forum – A resident asked whether Bloxham School had permission for the temporary floodlights at Dewey Hall and whether issues with parking had been addressed. The Chairman advised that Bloxham School did have

BLOXHAM PARISH COUNCIL

permission to use the temporary floodlights because they were not fixed, were shorter than the permanent lights and did not have same intensity. The Chairman would contact Bloxham School to clarify the parking arrangements on The Ridgeway. **Action AH**

A resident raised concerns regarding the width of the footpaths in Bloxham and reported on incidents where pedestrians have had to walk in the road, some with pushchairs and there were also examples of pedestrians being hit by the wing mirrors of lorries whilst walking on the footpaths on the A361.

District Councillors Rob Pattenden and David Hingley noted the issues and highlighted that the Local Planning Authority had difficulty addressing the issues of footpath width when planning applications were considered because the County Council, as the Highway Authority, did not object to applications on these grounds. The Sustrans report on Walking and Cycling around Bloxham, published in 2015, would be circulated to the Parish Council. **Action TG**

A resident addressed the Parish Council with regard to her objections to planning application 25/03255/F, High Gates, Queen Street, Bloxham for the demolition and replacement of the existing dwelling. The Chairman thanked the resident for her comments and advised that this application would be discussed later in the meeting.

A resident addressed the Parish Council with regard to the Bloxham Neighbourhood Plan public meeting held in November 2025, which referenced water from the proposed Tadmorton Road site, draining into The Brook. The Chairman reminded the meeting that water from these fields already drained into The Brook, but the proposal for the Tadmorton Road site, was to install a new system to ensure that water draining from the site was staggered, which would help improve the flooding issues which residents currently experienced.

The resident highlighted that during January 2026, raw sewage had been flowing into The Brook because the Thames Water facility could not cope with the amount of water it had to process. On the Thames Valley web site, it stated that during January 2026, raw sewage had been pumped into the water course for 665 hours. The Parish Council agreed that this was not a satisfactory situation however, it was not illegal for Thames Water to do this, if their facilities could not cope.

A resident who had previously requested a new street light on the corner of The Pound and Courtington Lane, asked for an update on the matter. The Clerk advised that the County Council had been contacted and she would follow it up. **Action TG**

A resident addressed the Parish Council and requested a pedestrian crossing by St Mary's Church. The Parish Council advised that the County Council had previously refused this request on safety grounds due to the limited visibility for drivers when they drove up the A361 towards the Church, from the centre of the village. However, the matter would be referred to the Traffic Calming Working Group. **Action RM**

The residents were thanked 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)

161/25 Reports from County and District Councillors – District Councillor Rob Pattenden gave an update regarding the Local Government reorganisation proposals. Prior to the meeting, the Clerk had requested that the District Councillors provide a report on the impact of the reorganisation on Parish Councils. However, Cherwell District Council was holding a meeting on Teams on Wednesday 11 February 2026 at 6pm to brief Town and Parish Councils on the proposals and the possible impact.

Cherwell District Council, South Oxfordshire District Council, Vale of White Horse District Council, West Oxfordshire District Council had proposed two unitary councils for Oxfordshire. These would comprise the current areas of:

- Oxford and Shires Council: Cherwell, Oxford City and West Oxfordshire.
- Ridgeway Council: South Oxfordshire, Vale of White Horse, plus West Berkshire (outside of invitation area).

Oxfordshire County Council proposed one unitary council. This would comprise the current areas of:

BLOXHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Oxfordshire: Cherwell, Oxford City, Oxfordshire County, South Oxfordshire, Vale of White Horse and West Oxfordshire.

Oxford City Council proposed three unitary councils: This included a request to split existing district council areas between the proposed new councils. These would comprise the current areas of:

- Greater Oxford Council: Oxford City (includes boundary change)
- Northern Oxfordshire Council: Most of Cherwell and West Oxfordshire
- Ridgeway Council: South Oxfordshire, Vale of White Horse, plus West Berkshire (outside of invitation area).

The Government's consultation was in progress and it was hoped there would be a decision in the spring/early summer.

With regard to the Parish Council's Health and Wellbeing Group, Councillor Pattenden reported that he had met with Parish Councillor Stuart Hodge and it had been agreed to produce a Ward Profile for Bloxham and a survey would be distributed in the village.

In addition, Cherwell District Council's budget consultation was being discussed on 3 February 2026, following the consultation process.

County/District Councillor David Hingley report on the meeting with the County Council's highways officers and the Parish Council's Traffic Calming Working Group at Bloxham Primary School. The meeting had been very productive and work was continuing.

The Councillors were thanked for their reports.

Resolved that the reports be noted.

162/25 Environment/Village Matters

- i) Flooding – Prior to the meeting, Councillor Neil Hegarty had circulated an update on the work of the Flooding Working Group. The report was available on the Parish Council's web site.

Resolved that the report be noted.

- ii) Traffic Calming Working Group – Prior to the meeting, Councillor Richard Morley had circulated the minutes of the Working Group meeting held on 12 January 2026. The minutes were available on the Parish Council web site.

Following comments from residents earlier in the meeting, Councillor Morley had extended his list of matters for discussion with the County Council.

Councillor Laura Noakes reported on the meeting with the County Council and it was agreed that a crossing was required on Tadmorton Road, possibly a raised Zebra Crossing, as this would also act as a speed bump. A request had been made that the crossing was installed prior to the work on the Quarry Close development commencing.

On the same side of the road as the Primary School, the County Council had confirmed that it would not install any new railings, but would review the width of the pavement to ensure more space for pedestrians. Signage would also be improved and the yellow zig zag lines would be extended to the top of the hill.

County Councillor David Hingley advised that the County Council's 20mph restrictions scheme would be reviewed and the Parish Council hoped to include the A361 outside Warriner School, so the speed can be reduced from 30mph.

Resolved that the report be noted.

BLOXHAM PARISH COUNCIL

- iii) David Tyrrell Recreation Ground Trustees – The Chairman reported that a meeting had been held on Monday 26 January 2026 with the current Trustees of the Recreation Ground. A number of other residents attended who had expressed an interest in becoming a Trustee.

The meeting had been very successful and there were now eight Trustees, with a possible two more to follow. The minimum requirement was eight Trustees and a maximum of twelve. Only two current Trustees were continuing in their roles.

The next steps were for a meeting to be held to appoint the new Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. It was confirmed that the Parish Council would arrange for the grass cutting for 2026/2027 and also for the monthly play area inspections.

The Clerk had offered to support the Trustees whilst they were establishing themselves, if this was helpful to them.

Resolved that the report be noted.

- iv) Bloxham Health and Well Being Working Group – Due to the absence of Councillor Stuart Hodge, this matter was deferred to the next meeting.

Resolved that this matter be discussed at the next meeting of the Parish Council. **Action TG**

163/25 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 observations 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 objections have been made by the Parish Council in respect of the following planning application: None

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:

25/03233/TPO The Poplars, Barford Road, Bloxham
G2 Leyland cypress x 6 - remove all trees in group to ground level - Subject to TPO
24/1988

- ii) Planning Application 25/03255/F, High Gates, Queen Street, Bloxham – The Parish Council considered an application for the demolition and replacement of the existing dwelling.

Resolved that the Clerk be given delegated authority, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, to submit comments from the Parish Council regarding application 25/03255/F, which include comments from the Parish Council received by 5pm on Wednesday 4 February 2026. **Action ALL**

- iii) 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.

BLOXHAM PARISH COUNCIL

- iv) Bloxham Neighbourhood Development Plan – The Chairman reported that Cherwell District Council's consultation period had started on Monday 8 December 2025 and had ended on Sunday 1 February 2026.

Resolved that the report be noted.

- v) 25/02106/REM - OS Parcel 0006 Adjoining North Side of, Ells Lane, Bloxham – The Clerk reported to the Parish Council that Cherwell District Council's Urban Design Officer had stated that they would not change their view on this reserved matters application, despite their report being contrary to the pre-app advice which had been received by Deeley Homes from Cherwell District Council.

Resolved that District Councillors David Hingley and Rob Pattenden to progress this matter with the planning officers and also request that this application is considered by the Planning Committee, not be a delegated decision to an officer. **Action DH/RP/TG**

164/25 Parish Council Matters

- i) Vacancies – The Clerk reported that there had not been any applications for co-option onto the Parish Council.

Resolved that the report be noted

- ii) Parish Council Elections – The Clerk reported that Parish Council elections were being held on Thursday 7 May 2026.

Resolved that the date of the Parish Council elections be noted.

- iii) Drop-In and Chat – Councillor Mike Fenner reported on the issues which had been raised at the last session and that the next session was being held on Saturday 14 February 2026.

Resolved that the report be noted.

- iv) IT Policy – The Parish Council considered adopting a new IT Policy.

Resolved that the IT policy be approved.

165/25 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 2 February 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 January 2025 and the Unity Trust bank statements for January 2026.

- 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.

BLOXHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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

- iv) Parish Council Grants and Community Donations Policy – The Parish Council considered a policy for awarding grants and community donations.

Resolved that the Parish Council Grants and Community Donations Policy be approved.

- v) Internal Audit 2025/2026 – The Parish Council considered the interim internal audit report for 2025/2026.

Resolved that the interim internal audit report and recommendations for 2025/2026 be noted.

- vi) Pension Policy – The Parish Council reviewed the Parish Council's Pension Policy.

Resolved that the Pension Policy be deferred for advice from the County Council. **Action TG/NR**

166/25 Correspondence – There was no further correspondence.

167/25 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 minute numbered 168/25 on the grounds that it could involve the likely disclosure of private and confidential information which was not in the public domain.

168/25 Quote for Lights at St Mary's Church – Councillor Nick Rayner circulated two quotes with regard to the options for replacing the lights at St Mary's Church.

Resolved that the quote from Angel Electrical for £4,309.20 be accepted and any increase in costs once the project has started, be reported to the next meeting of the Parish Council. **Action TG/NR**

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

169/25 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 of Bloxham Parish Council are as stated below.

- Monday 2 March 2026
- Monday 13 April 2026
- Wednesday 22 April 2026 (Annual Parish Meeting)
- Monday 11 May 2026
- Monday 1 June 2026

170/25 Items for Future Agendas/Items of Information

- Wildlife Corridors
- Purchase of devices to monitor pollution levels
- Parish Council social media platforms & communications
- Health and Wellbeing Working Group
- The Slade

(The meeting ended at 9.15pm)

DRAFT