

BLOXHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT JUBILEE HALL, BARLEY CLOSE, BLOXHAM ON MONDAY 3 NOVEMBER 2025 AT 7.00PM

PRESENT: Chairman, Councillor Alex Harrison; Councillors Russell Avens, Joanna Barton, Mike Fenner, Neil Hegarty, Stuart Hodge, Richard Morley, David Morris, Laura Noakes and Nick Rayner.

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

103/25 Apologies – Parish Councillor Amanda Baxter submitted her apologies because she had another appointment.

Resolved that the apologies from Parish Councillor Amanda Baxter be accepted and the absence authorised.

104/25 Declarations of Interest – There were no declarations of interest.

105/25 Parish Council Vacancies – The Parish Council considered an application for co-option onto the Parish Council from Stuart Hodge.

Resolved that Stuart Hodge be co-opted onto the Parish Council. **Action TG**

(Stuart Hodge then signed his Acceptance of Office declaration form)

106/25 Minutes – Prior to the meeting, the minutes of the meeting held on 6 October 2025 had been circulated to the Parish Council and were taken as read.

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 6 October 2025 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

107/25 Matters Arising – There were no matters arising.

108/25 Chairman's Announcements

- Deeley Homes – Meeting with Deeley Homes to discuss their reserved matters planning application on Ells Lane and the impact on the surrounding areas during the build was being held on 12 November 2025. The Chairman and Councillor Richard Morley would be attending.
- Parish Liaison Meeting – Cherwell District Council's Parish Liaison Meeting was being held on Wednesday 12 November 2025 via Teams. Councillor Neil Hegarty would be attending the meeting.
- Bloxham Health and Community Wellbeing Group – Invitations had been sent to various local organisations and a positive response had been received. The invitation was open to all village organisations to be involved with the Group and Councillor Stuart Hodge had agreed to be the Chairman.
- Meeting with Sean Woodcock MP – A meeting had been arranged with Sean Woodcock MP for Friday 7 November 2025.
- Flag Poles – The two flagpoles in the village, located at the War Memorial and Ex-Servicemen's Hall, both required some maintenance work.
- Ex-Servicemen's Hall – The roof at the hall would be requiring some maintenance work in the near future.
- Bowls Club – The Bowls Club would be applying to Cherwell District Council to use Section 106 funds for the works to its roof. At the next meeting, the Parish Council would be requested to support the application.

BLOXHAM PARISH COUNCIL

109/25 Open Forum – A resident asked whether the big red Remembrance poppies would be displayed on the lampposts around the village again this year. The Chairman confirmed this would be completed before Remembrance Sunday.

The Chairman also confirmed that applications for Parish Council grants would be considered at the next meeting as part of the budget setting process for 2026/2027.

The resident asked whether the speed camera on the A361 could be replaced because speeding through the village had become more of an issue since the cameras' removal. The Clerk would contact Thames Valley Police for advice. **Action TG**

Councillor Rob Pattenden reports that work was continuing on a proposal to be submitted to the Government on the reorganisation of Local Government in Oxfordshire. Cherwell District Council was currently supporting the two unitary model for Oxfordshire.

It was also still hoped that a decision on the Local Plan would be made by the Planning Inspector by Spring 2026.

(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)

110/25 Reports from County and District Councillors – County/District Councillor David Hingley reported that later that week, he would be discussing with County Council officers the highways issues around the Primary School.

County Councillor David Hingley reported on the new Oxford City congestion charge and that each Oxfordshire household was entitled to 25 permits which would exempt them from the charges. More details were available on the County Council's web site.

The County Council had also adopted a new policy for turning off street lights through part of the night. However, projects could only be progressed with the support of the Parish Council and the County Councillor for that division.

District Councillor Rob Pattenden reported that he would support the work of the Parish Council's new Health and Wellbeing Group and would also support Bloxham Bowls Club's application to use Section 106 funds for its new roof.

The Councillors were thanked for their reports.

111/25 Environment/Village Matters

- i) Flooding – Councillor Neil Hegarty provided an update on the work of the Flooding Working Group.

Councillor Hegarty had attended Cherwell District Council's Flooding Workshop which had been very informative and had advised how communities could help themselves during a flood event, including by establishing Community Flood Wardens. There would be update at the Parish Liaison Meeting on 12 November 2025.

Councillor Hegarty was thanked for his report.

Resolved that the report be noted.

- ii) Traffic Calming Working Group – Councillor Richard Morley reported that traffic congestion around Ells Lane/Bloxham Grove Road had improved recently because the Academy had staggered their home times for the students. However, this was only a temporary measure.

Also, a child had recently been hit by a car whilst crossing the road near to the Academy, but they had not been using a crossing. Parking around Warriner School and the Academy continued to be very dangerous.

BLOXHAM PARISH COUNCIL

As reported earlier in the meeting, there would be a meeting with Deeley Homes and Warriner School on 12 November 2025 to discuss how Deeley's build on Ells Lane would impact on the School and surrounding areas.

Councillor Morley was continuing to chase up the yellow lining and Community Speedwatch Scheme Sessions would be arranged shortly.

Resolved that the report be noted.

- iii) Remembrance Parade and Events – The Parish Council discussed the village Remembrance Day Parade being held on Sunday 9 November 2025.

It was agreed that Dave Bunn would be asked to lay the poppy wreath on behalf of the Parish Council at the War Memorial.

Resolved that the report be noted.

- iv) David Tyrrell Recreation Ground – The Chairman reported that there had been a meeting with the Trustees on 20 October 2025 to discuss how the Parish Council could support the current Trustees.

Resolved that the report be noted and the quote from Tessa Hennessy for legal advice be approved.

Action TG

112/25 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:

25/02309/TCA Long Leys, Queen Street, Bloxham
Tree works

25/02337/F 40 Gascoigne Way, Bloxham
Single storey front extension and conversion of garage to utility and store

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:

25/02106/REM OS Parcel 0006 Adjoining North Side Of, Ells Lane, Bloxham
Reserved Matters (layout, scale, appearance and landscaping) pursuant to 23/00065/OUT (APP/C3105/W23/3327581) for 29 dwellings including 35% affordable housing and all associated infrastructure

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:

25/02515/TCA Whettons Yard, Chapel Street, Bloxham
T1. Apple- Reduce back to previous points (2-3m) and remove any crossing or damaged branches

BLOXHAM PARISH COUNCIL

- 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 Parish Council had submitted the Draft Modified Bloxham Neighbourhood Development Plan to Cherwell District Council and was now awaiting the dates of Cherwell District Council's consultation period.

In the meantime, a public would be held on Monday 24 November 2025 at 7.15pm at the Ex-Servicemen's Hall to discuss the water management on the site identified in the Draft Plan. All residents were invited to attend.

Resolved that the report be noted.

113/25 Parish Council Matters

- i) Rules for Public Participation at Parish Council Meetings – The Parish Council considered the rules for public participation at Parish Council meetings.

Resolved that rules for Public Speaking at Parish Council Meetings be approved. **Action TG**

- ii) Parish Councillor Responsibilities – The Parish Councillor considered the list of responsibilities for 2025/2026.

Resolved that Parish Councillor Responsibilities be approved, as detailed in Appendix 2 to the Minutes.
Action TG

- iii) Drop-In and Chat – The Chairman reported that at the last session, there had been a report that vegetation had grown over the hand pump on the green (near to the War Memorial) and it needed to be cut back.

A request had also been made for a handrail on the footpath from Greenhills Park to Queen Street.

Resolved that the report be noted.

- iv) Social Media – The Parish Council discussed the Parish Council's Social Media accounts

Resolved that Councillor Stuart Hodge to investigate social media options for the Parish Council. **Action TG.**

114/25 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 3 November 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 October 2025 and the Unity Trust bank statements for October 2025.

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

BLOXHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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) Members' Allowances Scheme 2025/2026 – The Parish Council discussed the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel regarding Members' Allowances for Parish Councils for 2025/2026.

Resolved that:

- 1) the report be noted;
- 2) no basic allowances be paid to Councillors in 2025/2026; and
- 3) travel and subsistence allowances be paid to Councillors in 2025/2026 in accordance with the Scheme, on production of receipts to support their claim.

115/25 Correspondence – An email had been received from a resident regarding a request to switch off a street light in Hawke Lane. The resident had been advised that the request would be considered by the Parish Council at its meeting in December 2025.

116/25 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 117/25 on the grounds that it could involve the likely disclosure of private and confidential information which was not in the public domain.

117/25 Quote for Lights at St Mary's Church – Councillor Nick Rayner reported that he had spoken to Simon Angel and he would be obtaining a quote for the work in due course.

Resolved that the report be noted.

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

118/25 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 1 December 2025, Monday 5 January 2026
- Monday 2 February 2026, Monday 2 March 2026

119/25 Items for Future Agendas/Items of Information

- Wildlife Corridors
- Purchase of devices to monitor pollution levels
- Budget/Precept 2026/2027 & Parish Council Grants
- Section 106 funds for the Bowls Club project
- Flag Poles
- Roof at the Ex-Servicemen's Hall
- Streetlight in Hawke Lane

(The meeting ended at 8.50pm)

Chairman – 1 December 2025

BLOXHAM PARISH COUNCIL