

BLOXHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT JUBILEE HALL, BARLEY CLOSE, BLOXHAM ON MONDAY 6 JULY 2026 AT 7.00PM

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

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

28/26 Apologies – Parish Councillor David Morris submitted his apologies because he was at work.

Resolved that the apologies from Councillor David Morris be accepted and the absence authorised.

29/26 Declarations of Interest – There were no declarations of interest.

30/26 Minutes – Prior to the meeting, the minutes of the meeting held on 1 June 2026 had been circulated to the Parish Council and were taken as read.

Minute Number 34/26 - Disused Railway Line Land Adjacent to The Slade - Councillor Laura Noakes proposed an amendment which referenced that the land was being gifted to the Parish Council by the Facon family.

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 1 June 2026 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record, with the above amendment and the minute to now read:

The Parish Council discussed an offer of land proposed to be gifted to the Parish Council by the Facon family, for incorporation into The Slade.

31/26 Matters Arising – There were no matters arising.

32/26 Chairman's Announcements

- Delivery Vehicles – A resident had reported their concerns regarding the speed and volume of delivery vehicles in Unicorn Street and Hawke Lane. These were mainly Amazon and supermarket deliveries and the resident had asked the Parish Council to address this. Following a discussion, the Parish Council felt that this was not a matter that it had the power to progress, however residents would be advised that they could install their own CCTV on their homes. **Action AH**
- Adult Gym Equipment – The Jubilee Park Management Committee had agreed to remove the goal posts, therefore the quote from Alan Bower would be accepted. The Clerk would complete the application form for accessing the Section 106 funds. **Action TG**
- Parish Council Awards – The Chairman advised that he would like the Council to work towards achieving the Bronze Award. **Action AH**
- Parish Council Internal Communications – Councillors were reminded about the Code of Conduct and to ensure that all internal communications were polite and were in the spirit of the Code.

33/26 Open Forum – The residents did not wish to address 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)

34/26 Reports from County and District Councillors – County/District Councillor David Hingley reported that Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) Officers had advised that OCC would not be progressing the flood mitigation work under Bloxham School's Courtington Lane/Workhouse Lane car park. Officers felt that that the works would increase flood risk elsewhere in the village.

Parish Councillors and residents did not agree with this assessment and Councillor Hingley would now escalate the matter at OCC, given residents were being let down and a solution to the issue was needed. He would escalate the matter with both the appropriate Cabinet Member and Senior Officers.

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With regard to the recommendations within the Section 19 Flooding Report, there was no legal obligation for those organisations named in the report to action any of the recommended work.

Councillor Neil Hegarty agreed to circulate a variety of dates for a meeting with the appropriate Cherwell District Council (CDC) officers and OCC officers. **Action NH/TG**

It was also suggested that prior to the meeting, a list of questions be produced to ensure all matters were included.

County/District Councillor David Hingley reported that the Executive had approved the Bloxham Neighbourhood Plan and the Referendum would be held on 27 August 2026.

The results of the Local Government reorganisation should be announced by the Government the following week. The road works in Cherwell Street, Banbury were ahead of schedule and would be completed during first half of August 2026.

Councillor Hingley had attended a County Council pothole repair demonstration and he had recently sent information regarding the 'Warm Home Scheme' to the Clerk for publication.

In Oxford, Traffic Filters would be replacing the congestion charge and Oxfordshire residents would be allocated 25 permits per year to be able to drive into the areas affected. More information was available on the County Council's website.

Information on how to manage in the hot weather was also available on the County Council's website.

Councillor Rob Pattenden reported that the planning application at The Ridgeway was likely to be determined on Wednesday 8 July 2026. If the application was referred to the Planning Committee, it was likely to be recommended for approved by the planning officers.

Planning application 25/02895/OUT for up to 95 dwellings, for land adjoining and west of Bloxham Recreation Ground, South Newington Road, Bloxham would be considered by the Planning Committee on 23 July 2026. The Planning Officers would most likely recommend that the application be approved. However, should it be refused, the application would probably go to an appeal after the Referendum on 27 August 2026, which would give more weight to the Neighbourhood Plan.

It was agreed that the Parish Council's consultant ONH, be asked for advice regarding a solicitor specialising in planning matters who could represent the Parish Council at the Planning Committee.

Councillor Hingley also reported on Cherwell District Council's Government Designation in respect of major planning applications. Information had previously been circulated to Parish Councils while CDC would continue to determine planning applications as normal, the designation introduced an additional option for applicants. Applicants for major development could continue to apply to Cherwell District Council, or they could choose to apply directly to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) for a decision.

This did not remove the Council's planning powers, but it did provide an alternative route for determining certain types of application.

Councillor Pattenden also highlighted that he had concerns with the decision making process for a planning application at 19 Milton Road, Bloxham and he would be looking into this further.

The Chairman advised Councillor Pattenden that Tom Gubbins from CDC had still not responded in respect of the Health and Wellbeing Group. Although this was no longer part of Councillor Pattenden's portfolio, he would contact Mr Gubbins and request that he responds to the Chairman. **Action AH**

Councillor Neil Hegarty highlighted that reports submitted to Fix My Street were taking too long to be actioned and there were a number of drains in the village which were completely blocked. Residents were advised to contact the Parish Council or Councillor David Hingley if there had not been any action with their reports, within a month of them being submitted to Fix My Street.

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Resolved that the reports be noted.

35/26 Environment/Village Matters

- i) Flooding – Councillor Neil Hegarty reported that the project at The Slade was progressing and a meeting was being held on Wednesday 8 July 2026 with relevant parties, which included Marie Jones, Warden at The Slade, Jerry Wood and a representative from BBOWT.

Once the project had started, volunteers who had a chainsaw licence would be needed to help move some of the wood. The Clerk would include a note in the Parish Council's newsletter and insurance would be checked in due course.

Resolved that the report be noted.

- ii) Traffic Calming Working Group – Prior to the meeting, Councillor Richard Morley had circulated a report on the work of the Traffic Calming Working Group. The report was available on the Parish Council's website.

Resolved that the report be noted.

- iii) Health and Wellbeing Working Group – The Chairman reported that there had been two meetings during the last month and the Group had discussed its aims and objectives and one of the key identified objectives, was to address loneliness and isolation for older people.

The Group had also discussed how the many other organisations which existed in the village, could possibly be connected and work together and assist with the objectives of the Group..

The Working Group would also now be considered a Community Group to enable it to be led by the Community and would not be a Working Group of the Parish Council.

The next meeting was scheduled to be held on 7 August 2026.

Resolved that the report be noted.

- iv) Community Events – Councillor Amanda Baxter reported that her vision was to organise positive events in the village, which would involve the whole community. It was suggested that there could be a Farmers Market in the Ex-Servicemen's Hall, events to raise funds for the David Tyrrell Recreation Ground and resurrect Bloxfest in the future.

During the discussion, it was suggested that these events could form part of the Health and Wellbeing Community Group's objectives and Councillor Baxter agreed to join the Group to progress the community events further.

Resolved that the report be noted.

- v) St Mary's Church, Christmas Tree Festival – The Parish Council discussed participating in the 2026 Christmas Tree Festival. Councillor Amanda Baxter and Joanna Barton agreed to dress the tree.

Resolved that the Parish Council to participate in the St Mary's Church, Christmas Tree Festival 2026.
Action TG

36/26 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:

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25/03084/F

Milton Road Sports and Community Building, Milton Road, Adderbury

Variation of condition 2 (plans) of 21/00104/F - reduction in size of proposed building

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:

26/01512/DISC The Woodlands, Workhouse Lane, Bloxham
Discharge of Condition 3 (window details) of 25/00867/LB

- 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 reported that the Neighbourhood Plan referendum was being held on 27 August 2026.

It was felt that ONH and Cherwell District Council should be asked for advice regarding the rules around the pre-election period and how the Parish Council could promote the Referendum.

Resolved that:

- 1) the report be noted;
- 2) ONH and Cherwell District Council be asked for guidance regarding the actions the Parish Council is permitted to take during the pre-election period; and
- 3) the Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman, be given delegated authority to accept a quote, of up to £5000, for support and advice from a professional person, specialising in Planning and Neighbourhood Plans, to represent the Parish Council at CDC's Planning Committee on 23 July 2026, in respect of the Parish Council's objection to planning application 25/02895/OUT, focusing on the issues of prematurity in decision making, when a Neighbourhood Plan is at an advanced stage. **Action TG**

37/26 Parish Council Matters

- i) Drop-In and Chat – Councillor Neil Negarty reported that only one resident had attended the last session.

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 that he had attended an OALC training session on social media.

Resolved that the Parish Council sets up a new Facebook account and also an Instagram account. **Action TG**

- iii) Future 'Capstone' Projects and Access from Greenhills Park to Winters Way – The Parish Council discussed the proposal for an access from Greenhills Park to Winters Way. It was suggested that the footpath in Queen Street was also included in the project.

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

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38/26 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 6 July 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 30 June 2026 and the Unity Trust bank and CCLA statements for June 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.

39/26 Correspondence – There was no further correspondence.

40/26 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 41/26 & 42/26 on the grounds that it could involve the likely disclosure of private and confidential information which was not in the public domain.

41/26 St Mary's Church Clock – The Parish Council had been due to discuss a quote for repairs to St Mary's Church Clock and agree whether it should share the costs with the PCC. However, further information was required before a decision could be made.

Resolved that this item be deferred to a future meeting of the Parish Council. **Action TG**

42/26 Christmas Lights 2026 – The Parish Council had been due to consider a quote from Field and Lawn for the village Christmas Lights 2026. However, the quote had not yet been received.

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

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

43/26 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 3 August 2026
- Monday 7 September 2026
- Monday 5 October 2026

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- Monday 2 November 2026
- Monday 7 December 2026

44/26 Items for Future Agendas/Items of Information

- Christmas Lights 2026
- St Mary's Church Clock
- Document Management

(The meeting ended at 8.55pm)

Chairman – 3 August 2026

DRAFT