

# **BLOXHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

## **MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT JUBILEE HALL, BARLEY CLOSE, BLOXHAM ON MONDAY 6 OCTOBER 2025 AT 7.00PM**

**PRESENT:** Chairman, Councillor Alex Harrison; Councillors Joanna Barton, Amanda Baxter, Mike Fenner, Neil Hegarty, David Morris and Nick Rayner.

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Theresa Goss (Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer) and two members of the public.

**87/25 Apologies** – Parish Councillor Russell Avens submitted his apologies because he was at work.

Parish Councillor Richard Morley submitted his apologies because he had another appointment.

Parish Councillor Laura Noakes submitted her apologies because she was at work.

County Councillor/District Councillor David Hingley and District Councillors Rob Pattenden and Gordon Blakeway also submitted their apologies.

**Resolved** that the apologies from Parish Councillors Russell Avens, Richard Morley and Laura Noakes be accepted and the absences authorised.

**88/25 Declarations of Interest** – There were no declarations of interest.

**89/25 Minutes** – Prior to the meeting, the minutes of the meeting held on 1 September 2025 had been circulated to the Parish Council and were taken as read.

**Resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 1 September 2025 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**90/25 Matters Arising** – There were no matters arising.

**91/25 Chairman's Announcements**

- Bloxham School – The Chairman had met with David Ramm and Tim Seton from Bloxham School and had discussed a variety of matters including parking at Jubilee Hall, the planning application at Dewey Hall and the community use agreement, White Lion café and the Katharine House Hospice Tractor Run.
  - Royal British Legion (RBL) Representatives – The flag at the War Memorial had been flown at half mast on 1 October 2025 to mark the funeral of Bernard Lane, a former member of the RBL. The flag would be flown at half mast again on 17 October 2025 to mark the funeral of Bill Richardson, who had been an active member of the RBL up until he passed away.
  - Jubilee Park Play Equipment – The Clerk reminded Councillors that repairs to the trampoline at Jubilee Park and the surfacing at the David Tyrell Recreation Ground was being progressed with ARD Playgrounds. There had been a complaint about the play equipment at Jubilee Park being dirty and needing to be cleaned and it was agreed that this would be forwarded to the Jubilee Park Management Committee to progress.
- Action TG**

**92/25 Open Forum** – The owner of Bloxham Nursery addressed the meeting to raise concerns about the Deeley Homes development on Ells Lane and the potential impact on his business if the road was closed when work started on site. Councillor Joanna Barton advised that the Parish Council had requested sight of the Traffic Management Plan prior to work starting and this point would be checked.

The owner of Bloxham Nursery also requested permission to donate a tree to David Bunn to acknowledge all his hard work as a Councillor before he resigned. The Parish Council was very happy to support such a kind gesture. The Chairman thanked him for addressing the Parish Council and he then left at this point.

Councillor David Morris reminded the meeting that the dog waste bin and the litter bin on Milton Road needed to be replaced and the Clerk agreed to action this. However, an alternative delivery address was required as the Clerk

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could no longer take large deliveries at home. It was agreed that the owner of Bloxham Nursery would be asked if he could assist with large deliveries. **Action TG/NR**

*(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)*

**93/25 Reports from County and District Councillors** – There were no reports from the County and District Councillors.

### **94/25 Environment/Village Matters**

- i) Flooding – Councillor Neil Hegarty reported that a flyer had been delivered to every house in the village in readiness for the Flooding public meeting held on 26 September 2025 at Jubilee Hall. There had been a very good turnout by residents and the feedback had been indicated that they had found it useful.

Councillor Hegarty gave an update on the work of the Flooding Working Group and the progress which had been made in a number of areas. Information which had been published for the Flooding public meeting, had also been published on the Parish Council's web site. Councillor Hegarty also highlighted the huge amount of work Jerry Wood had put into the project, especially on natural flood management and Mr Wood was thanked by the Councillors.

Councillor Hegarty was thanked for his report.

**Resolved** that the report be noted.

- ii) Christmas Lights 2025/2026 – Councillor Nick Rayner provided an update to the Parish Council on the Christmas tree and Christmas lights project 2025/2026.

The work to repair the sockets on the streetlights was scheduled to be completed before mid-November 2025 and the lights would be erected at the end of November/beginning of December 2025. The Christmas tree had also been ordered from John Wyatt.

Unfortunately, David Andrews was unable to complete the electrical work for the Christmas tree lights this year and Councillor Rayner was in contact with Simon Angel about the work.

**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 and an event with Bloxham Primary School.

The Chairman highlighted that the Royal British Legion was very short on numbers and the village branch might not continue for many more years.

The Clerk confirmed that in the following days, she would be contacting the volunteers who helped with the Parade to confirm their input for this year.

Prior to the meeting, Councillor Laura Noakes, had suggested that the Parish Council could work with the Primary School on a Remembrance Day event. There had been some suggested ideas and Councillor Joanna Barton agreed to liaise with Councillor Noakes after the meeting on the details of the event.

**Resolved** that the report be noted.

- iv) Community Events – Councillor Amanda Baxter suggested to the Parish Council that it could arrange community events for the village. Councillors were supportive of community events in the village and Councillor Baxter agreed to look into the idea further.

Stuart Hodge, a resident of the village, offered to assist Councillor Baxter with the village events.

**Resolved** that the report be noted.

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- v) Oxfordshire County Council's Informal Consultation - A361 Speed Limit Reductions – The Parish Council considered the consultation on speed limit reductions at the following locations on the A361:
- Williamscoth Hill - 40mph to replace the existing 50mph limit.
  - Chipping Norton to Shipton-under-Wychwood - 50mph to replace the existing National Speed Limit.
  - South of Shipton-under-Wychwood - 40mph to replace the existing National Speed Limit.

**Resolved** that the Parish Council has no objections to the consultation. **Action TG**

### 95/25 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:

25/01747/F	76 Tadmorton 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

**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
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**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:

25/02309/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

- 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 Parish Council considered the Draft Modified Bloxham Neighbourhood Plan for submission to Cherwell District Council.

**Resolved** that:

- 1) the Draft Modified Bloxham Neighbourhood Plan be submitted to Cherwell District Council; and  
**Action TG**
- 2) the Clerk be given delegated authority, to make any minor changes to the Plan, prior to submission to Cherwell District Council.

### **96/25 Parish Council Matters**

- i) Vacancies – There were no applications for co-option onto the Parish Council.

**Resolved** that the vacancies continue to the advertised. **Action TG**

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

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

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

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

- iv) Drop-In and Chat – The Chairman reported that the next session was being held on Saturday 11 October 2025.

**Resolved** that the report be noted.

- v) Traffic Calming Working Group – The Chairman reported on a meeting with the Primary School and County Councillor David Hingley held on 15 September 2020. It had been agreed that the County Council's highways officers would be contacted about a number of items, including additional metal barriers, re-locating metal barriers, pedestrian crossings on Tadmerton and Courtington Lane, warning signs and the cutting back of trees which were obscuring signs.

The VAS was continuing to be moved around the village to different locations and leaflets reminding drivers to park considerately would also be circulated in the village.

**Resolved** that the report be noted.

- vi) Meeting with Sean Woodcock MP – The Parish Council discussed whether the Parish Council should request a meeting with Sean Woodcock MP, to discuss issues affecting the village.

**Resolved** that Sean Woodcock's office be contacted for a meeting ask for a meeting with Sean Woodcock MP. **Action TG**

- vii) Community Health and Wellbeing Working Group – The Chairman suggested to the Parish Council whether it should investigate establishing a Community Health and Wellbeing Working Group, which would bring together all the village organisations and could create better services and outcomes for the village as a whole.

**Resolved** that a Community Health and Wellbeing Working Group be progressed. **Action AH**

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## 97/25 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 6 October 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 30 September 2025 and the Unity Trust bank statements for September 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.

## 98/25 Correspondence – There was no further correspondence.

## 99/25 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 100/25 on the grounds that it could involve the likely disclosure of private and confidential information which was not in the public domain.

## 100/25 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**

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

## 101/25 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 3 November 2025
- Monday 1 December 2025
- Monday 5 January 2026
- Monday 2 February 2026
- Monday 2 March 2026

## 102/25 Items for Future Agendas/Items of Information

- Wildlife Corridors
- Purchase of devices to monitor pollution levels

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- Budget/Precept 2026/2027

(The meeting ended at 8.50pm)

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Chairman – 3 November 2025