

BLOXHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT JUBILEE HALL, BARLEY CLOSE, BLOXHAM ON MONDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 2026 AT 7.00PM

PRESENT: Councillors Joanna Barton, David Bunn, Neil Hegarty, Richard Morley, David Morris and Nick Rayner.

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

62/26 Appointment of Chairman for 2026/2027 – Following the resignation of Parish Councillor Alex Harrison, Councillor Joanna Barton asked for nominations for the position of Chairman of the Parish Council for 2026/2027.

Resolved that Councillor David Bunn be elected as Chairman for 2026/2027.

(Councillor Bunn then signed the Chairman's Acceptance of Office form)

63/26 Apologies – Parish Councillor Amanda Baxter submitted her apologies because she had another appointment.

Parish Councillor Mike Fenner submitted his apologies because he was unwell.

County/District Councillor David Hingley also submitted his apologies.

Resolved that the apologies from Councillors Amanda Baxter and Mike Fenner be accepted and the absences authorised.

64/26 Declarations of Interest

Minute Number 71/26 (iii), Planning Application 26/01928/F, Bloxham School Playing Field, Banbury Road, Bloxham

Councillor Richard Morley declared an interest in this item because he was a resident living close to the site of the application.

65/26 Minutes – Prior to the meeting, the minutes of the meeting held on 3 August 2026 had been circulated to the Parish Council and were taken as read.

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 3 August 2026 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

66/26 Matters Arising

Minute Number ??/26 (iv), St Mary's Parish Rooms – The Clerk confirmed that Rev'd Dale Gingrich had agreed that Bloxham Biodiversity could maintain the planters outside of St Mary's Parish Room. The request had been passed onto Bloxham Biodiversity and a response was awaited.

The Parish Council asked that its thanks be passed to Bloxham Biodiversity for maintaining the planters at the entrances to the village, especially over the summer during the heatwaves. **Action TG**

67/26 Chairman's Announcements

- Bloxham Neighbourhood Plan Referendum – The Plan had been approved at a Referendum held on 27 August 2026 and would now become planning policy at Cherwell District Council. Residents were thanked for voting in the Referendum, whether or not they had voted in favour of the Plan. There had been a 29.35% turnout and 88% of those votes were in favour of the Plan.

68/26 Open Forum – A resident spoke in objection to planning application 26/01928/F at Bloxham School Playing Field, Banbury Road, Bloxham and urged the Parish Council to submit an objection to Cherwell District Council. Another resident supported the comments in objection to this application.

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Councillor Nick Rayner reported that John Wyatt, owner of Bloxham Nursery on Ells Lane had raised concerns regarding the potential impact on his business during the construction of the development on Ells Lane. The Clerk suggested that Mr Wyatt be put in contact with Deeley Homes to enable him to raise these concerns directly.

Action TG

Councillor Rayner also reported that two reports had been submitted to the County Council's Fix My Street website on 13 July 2026, but it appeared nothing had changed. The references were 261107934 & 261107900. The Clerk agreed to contact the County Council for an update. **Action TG**

There were other highway issues relating to trees and bushes overhanging the footpath and the Clerk would follow up on these after the meeting. **Action TG**

(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)

69/26 Reports from County and District Councillors – There were no reports from the County and District Councillors.

70/26 Environment/Village Matters

- i) Flooding – Councillor Neil Hegarty reminded the Parish Council that, in relation to the Courtington Lane/Workhouse Lane car park works, a meeting had taken place on 21 July 2026. Tony Brummell had been responsible for preparing the minutes and outlining the plans required to progress this project. It was noted that the option initially proposed of installing a large drainage line beneath the car park was no longer being pursued and instead, consideration was being given to other measures which could prevent water flowing from the playing fields and flooding homes.

It had also been agreed that Mr Brummell would approach Bloxham School to clarify how and when approval had originally been granted for discharging drainage water from the Schools' fields into the public drainage system.

The use of a smaller pipe size underneath the car park did not appear to be a viable solution either and was a source of frustration for both the Parish Council and local residents. Natural flood-management options on the playing fields were therefore being explored and there would be a site meeting with Tony Brummell, Tim Seton from Bloxham School and affected residents. The Parish Council acknowledged that any natural flood management proposals were only a partial solution and would not address the root cause of the flooding issues in this area of the village.

The matter had been raised with District Councillor David Hingley, who was currently on holiday but had agreed to take it forward upon his return. Councillor Hegarty confirmed that he would also follow up with Councillor Hingley later that week. Councillor Hegarty felt that progress with Tony Brummell had been limited and it was hoped that Councillor Hingley's involvement would assist with moving the project forward.

Mr Brummell had also highlighted the Cherwell District Council Flood Awareness Session scheduled for 24 September 2026 in Kidlington, which was intended to inform residents about actions they could take to protect their homes. Vendors and flood-management specialists would be in attendance to provide advice.

Following the lack of progress in respect of flood management as a whole, a resident had contacted Tony Brummell seeking recommendations for companies which were able to advise on property level flood protection. Unfortunately, if the resident undertook this action, it was likely that these measures would result in additional water being diverted away from his property, towards his neighbours and the High Street. However, the resident felt that with no support from the Local Lead Flood Authority he did not have any other choice but to install his own measures to protect his property.

He was supportive of the actions which the Parish Council had taken and acknowledged that the lack of progress lay with the County Council.

Regarding The Slade, Councillor Hegarty reported that the leaky-dam project was expected to commence at the end of October 2026, with assistance from Cotefield Treecare Ltd and representatives from Thames21.

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Jerry Wood had been recruiting new volunteers for the works at The Slade and grant funding from Oxfordshire County Council had been received by the Parish Council.

The Chairman expressed concern that Tony Brummell had not been responding to his requests for information and it was unfortunate that the lack of action had resulted in residents taking their own steps to protect their own properties, which could have consequential impacts on other residents further downstream.

Councillor Hegarty was thanked for this report.

Resolved that the report be noted.

- ii) Traffic Calming Working Group – Prior to the meeting, Councillor Richard Morley had circulated the minutes of the meeting held on 17 August 2026. The minutes were available on the Parish Council's website.

Councillor Morley reported that Oxfordshire County Council had requested comments on a proposal to reduce the speed limit from 50mph to 40mph, covering the stretch from the new estates in Banbury on the A361 through to Ells Lane.

He advised that the 20mph limit consultation was due to be implemented within the next week and that no further changes would be introduced until next summer.

It was noted that the Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) near the Primary School had been reported as not working. Councillor Morley had inspected the unit and confirmed that it was functioning correctly. Residents would be informed accordingly.

The cost of a new VAS was approximately £3,000 and the Parish Council would consider this in due course, along with a static speed-monitoring device, the type which were mounted on a tripod at the side of the road.

Councillor Morley confirmed that two new volunteers had joined the Community Speed Watch Scheme and had been fully signed up with Thames Valley Police.

He further reported that a number of issues remained outstanding with Oxfordshire County Council and these would be followed up, once officers had returned from annual leave.

Councillor Morley was thanked for his report.

Resolved that:

- 1) the report be noted;
 - 2) the resident who reported the VAS by the Primary School as not working, be advised that it has been checked and is in full working order; and **Action TG**
 - 3) Councillor Morley to obtain further information on a static speed-monitoring device. **Action RM**
- iii) Health and Wellbeing Working Group – Prior to the meeting, the minutes of the meeting held on 7 August 2026 had been circulated to the Parish Council. The minutes were available on the Parish Council's website.

Resolved that the report be noted.

- iv) Planting on Courtington Lane – The Parish Council discussed a request from Biodiversity Bloxham to plant bulbs in a grass verge by Bloxham Primary School.

Resolved that the planting on Courtington Lane and expenditure up to £100 on any necessary equipment be approved. **Action TG**

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- v) Disabled Parking on Church Street – The Parish Council had been due to discuss a request for a disabled parking space on Church Street, Bloxham (near to The Loft). However, in the absence of Councillor Amanda Baxter, this item was deferred to the next meeting of the Parish Council.

Resolved that:

- 1) this item be deferred to the next meeting of the Parish Council; and **Action TG**
- 2) the County Council be requested to erect another sign in the disabled bay on High Street. **Action TG**

71/26

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:

26/01822/F & The Old Barn, Cumberford, Bloxham
26/01823/LB Installation of a single domestic electric vehicle (EV) charging point

26/02010/TCA 2, The Old Cottage, Church Street, Bloxham
Tree works

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:

26/01551/F Colgrae, Chapel Street, Bloxham
Two storey side and single storey rear extensions

Resolved that, it be noted that the Parish Council is considering the following planning applications/works to trees:

26/01928/F Bloxham School Playing Field, Banbury Road, Bloxham
Variation of Condition 3 (removal of cricket nets) of 21/01685/F to allow for the year-round retention of the cricket nets at Bloxham School playing field

26/02104/TCA Whettons Yard, Chapel Street, 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) Planning Application 26/01928/F, Bloxham School Playing Field, Banbury Road, Bloxham – The Parish Council discussed an application for the variation of Condition 3 (removal of cricket nets) of 21/01685/F to allow for the year-round retention of the cricket nets at Bloxham School playing field.

Resolved that the Parish Council objects to application 26/01928/F, Bloxham School Playing Field, Banbury Road. **Action DB/TG**

(Councillor Richard Morley did not vote on this item)

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- iv) Bloxham Neighbourhood Development Plan – The Chairman reported that the Referendum on the Modified Bloxham Neighbourhood Plan was held on 27 August 2026 and was approved by the village. Further information was available on the Parish Council's website.

The Parish Council would now need to engage with Cherwell District Council on the mix of housing types in the forthcoming new developments which had been approved in the village, to ensure they complied with the policies in the Bloxham Neighbourhood Plan.

Neil Homer would also be requested to advise when the Plan should next be reviewed.

Resolved that:

- 1) the report be noted; and
- 2) Neil Homer be requested to advise when the Plan should next be reviewed. **Action TG**

72/26 Parish Council Matters

- i) Vacancies – There had not been any applications for co-option onto the Parish Council.

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

- ii) Drop-In and Chat – The Chairman reported on the issues raised at the last session held on 8 August 2026. All of the matters had been dealt with since that date.

The next session was being held on 12 September 2026.

Resolved that the report be noted.

- iii) Civility and Respect Pledge – The Parish Council discussed supporting the National Association of Local Councils, Civility and Respect Pledge. For more information visit <https://www.nalc.gov.uk/campaigns/civility-and-respect/civility-and-respect-pledge.html>

Resolved that the Parish Council adopts the Civility and Respect Pledge. **Action TG**

73/26 Finance

- i) Councillor Priority Fund – The Parish Council discussed possible projects to be funded from the County Council's Councillor Priority Fund.

Resolved that an application be submitted to the County Council for a static speed-monitoring device.
Action TG

- ii) 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 7 September 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 August 2026 and the Unity Trust bank and CCLA statements for August 2026.

- iii) Budget Monitoring 2026/2027 – Prior to the meeting, the Parish Council received budget monitoring report for 2026/2027.

Resolved that the report be noted.

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- iv) General, Ring-Fenced and Ear-Marked Reserves 2026/2027 – The Parish Council considered its reserves for 2026/2027.

Resolved that the report be noted.

- v) Bank Signatories – The Parish Council reviewed the signatories on the Parish Council's bank accounts.

Resolved that Councillor David Bunn be added as a signatory of the Parish Council's bank accounts, in addition to Joanna Barton, Amanda Baxter and Nick Rayner. **Action TG**

74/26 Correspondence – There was no further correspondence.

75/26 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 76/26, 77/26 & 78/26 on the grounds that it could involve the likely disclosure of private and confidential information which was not in the public domain.

76/26 Staffing Matters – The Parish Council considered the National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) pay scales for 2026/27, which were to be implemented from 1 April 2026.

Resolved that the pay increase be applied to the Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer's salary for 2026/2027, back dated to 1 April 2026. **Action TG**

77/26 Christmas Lights 2026 – The Parish Council considered a report from Councillor Nick Rayner, which had been circulated prior to the meeting, for the Christmas lights 2026.

Councillor Rayner had completed a site walk with Field and Lawn and it had been identified that some of the new streetlights installed by the County Council, had not been furnished with a socket to enable to Christmas lights to be plugged into them.

In addition, John Wyatt had offered to the Parish Council, free of charge, a potted Christmas tree. Councillor Rayner would review the tree and report back to the Parish Council on its suitability.

Resolved that:

- 1) the report be noted; and
- 2) the County Council be contacted to confirm the specification of the new streetlights. **Action TG**

78/26 Quotes for Works at The Slade – The Parish Council had been due to consider quotes for works in respect of the leaky dam project at The Slade. However, the quotes had not yet been received, therefore, Councillor Neil Hegarty and Clerk would review them in due course.

Resolved that delegated authority be given to the Clerk, in consultation with Councillor Neil Hegarty, to consider quotes for the works at The Slade and accept suitable quotes, within the limit of the grant funding from the County Council, which is £8,919.91. **Action TG/NH**

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

79/26 Meeting Dates – The Chairman reported that the next Parish Council meetings would be held at Jubilee Hall, Barley Close, Bloxham, commencing at 7.00pm.

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Resolved that it be noted that, future meeting dates of Bloxham Parish Council are as stated below.

- Monday 5 October 2026
- Monday 2 November 2026
- Monday 7 December 2026

80/26 Items for Future Agendas/Items of Information

- Access from Greenhill Park and Winters Way
- St Mary's Church Clock
- 20mph speed restrictions review
- Document management platforms

(The meeting ended at 8.40pm)

Chairman – 5 October 2026