

BLEWBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes

Of the Meeting of the Parish Council
held in the Vale Room on Wednesday 14th October 2015 at 7.30 p.m

Councillors present: Mr C Lakeland (Chairman)(CL), Ms J Gibson (JG), Ms V Fox (VF), Mr M Penington (MP), Mr M Shayler, Mr M Blythe (MB), Ms Charlotte Cameron (CC), Ms Lydia Inglis (LI). **Also present:** Mrs Elaine de Ridder (clerk), District Councillor Shelley, District Councillor Waite and 2 members of the public

Matters resolved:

1. It was agreed that Lydia Inglis be proposed as the next PC representative on the Malthus Trust.
2. All payments were approved.

Actions arising from the meeting	Target date
1. MB to formulate a letter to Highways and Cllr Lilly	By November meeting
2. Clerk to ask lengthman to trim back the trees in order to open the path on the Pound.	As soon as possible
3. Clerk to investigate if the CPRE has a standard letter to write to MPs about the threat to villages. MB to circulate his letter to Ed Vaizey. CL to draft letter.	By November meeting
4. Clerk to write to Malthus Trust.	By November meeting
5. Clerk to investigate ownership of Whiteshoot Farm	As soon as possible
6. Clerk to ask lengthman about his availability to help on leaf clearance day	As soon as possible
7. Clerk to finish the cemetery map corrections and return it to Pear Technologies	
8. Clerk and CL to do initial Annual Review of Risks	
9. Clerk to set up meeting with EHPC and the "Mind the Green Gap" group	
Actions brought forward	
1. CL to review tree register	By October meeting
2. Clerk to review document register	By October meeting

1. **To receive apologies for absence.** Apologies from Ms Miriam Jacobs (MJ). County Councillor Lilly, David Hollick (Lengthman).
2. **To record declarations of interest.** No declarations made at the start of the meeting.
3. **To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 9th September 2015.** The minutes were accepted and signed as a true record.
4. **To receive the County Councillor's report.** County Councillor report was circulated. Some concern was expressed about the impact of the closure of Hagbourne Hill and the on-going road works.
Action: MB to formulate a letter to Highways and Cllr Lilly.
5. **To receive the District Councillor's report.** The District Councillor's written report was circulated prior to the meeting. See Annex A. The district councillors were asked for some reassurance in light of the planning application in the AONB. Cllr Shelley confirmed that all the larger villages are feeling vulnerable. Cllr Waite has not yet been able to speak to the planning officer about the Woodway application. The Vale was congratulated for having the second highest recycling rate, with SODC being first. Following concerns about the pressures on existing GP practices in Didcot, Cllr Waite will be writing to the authorities to express concern about the delay in the new practice planned for Didcot.
6. **To receive the Lengthman's report.** See Annex B. **Action: Clerk to ask lengthman to trim back the trees in order to open the path on the Pound.**
7. **Open Forum.**
The permission for the Borlase planning application was briefly discussed.
8. **Neighbourhood Plan (NP).** Excellent progress is being made. The consultation with the village is due to start in November.
9. **Matters arising.**

9.1. 09/09/15 **To receive and update about the recent RBC invoice.** Following further communications, RBC agreed that Blewbury PC was not liable for this invoice. As the croquet club built the disabled loo and did not obtain the necessary building regulation completion certificate, RBC will be taking this up directly with them. **Item closed.**

10. **Village hall redevelopment**

10.1. To receive an update on the progress of the working party and fundraising. Planning consent has been obtained. A fundraising meeting was held. Two applications have been submitted and another will follow. A brochure will be produced to inform the village about the fundraising and the phased scheme.

11. **Recreation Ground.**

11.1. 12/11/14 *To receive an update from the PC representative on the BVCIC.* MP obtained a quote for £1700 for heaters for the Melland Room and on-demand water heating but the CIC was not keen on the solution. The next CIC meeting is in November.

12. **Planning & Housing**

12.1. 12/11/14 To receive an update on speculative approaches. It was agreed that the Parish Council should write to Ed Vaizey about the threat to villages. **Action: Clerk to investigate if the CPRE has a standard letter to write to MPs about the threat to villages. MB to circulate his letter to Ed Vaizey. CL to draft letter.**

12.2. 02/02/06 To receive the planning committee report. See Annex C.

12.3. 08/11/12 To approve responses to current applications

P15/V2356/FUL, Hunts Grave Farm, Woodway Road. *Demolition of existing structures. Erection of two dwellings, with gardens including boundaries, and parking areas.* This application appears on the Vale’s website but plans have not yet been received. The response to this application will be made via email as the due date will be before the next PC meeting.

13. **Finance & Administration**

13.1. To receive nominations for the Parish Council’s representative on the Malthus Trust. It was agreed that Lydia Inglis be proposed as the next PC representative on the Malthus Trust. **Action: Clerk to write to Malthus Trust. Item closed.**

13.2. To approve payments to be made under ancillary powers and within budgeted amounts

Description	Amount
E de Ridder (salary and expenses)	£894.05
D Hollick (salary and expenses)	£532.72
BT Payment Services Ltd (direct debit)	£23.98
White Horse Horticulture	£280.00
Biffa Waste Services Ltd	£71.04
Post Office Ltd (for PAYE & NI)	£520.92
PWLB	£5,100.00
TOTAL	£ 7,422.71

All payments were approved.

14. **To receive an update on any issues relating to Footways, Footpaths, rights of way and open spaces.**

14.1. To receive an update re footpaths over Beeswax Farms. It was reported that “permissive footpath” signs are going up on Beeswax Farm. JG had a meeting with Richard Farrell. The DMMO application process will be put into motion. **Action: Clerk to investigate ownership of Whiteshoot Farm.**

14.2. To agree a date for leaf clearance and village clean-up day. In the past, Mike Edmunds and Sustainable Blewbury organised the leaf clearance day. The Parish Council would organise this year’s but it is hoped that Sustainable Blewbury will take over again in future years. It is proposed to have it in late November. **Action: Clerk to ask lengthman about his availability to help on leaf clearance day.**

15. **To receive an update on any issues relating to roads, road safety and public transport.**

15.1. To receive an update on the meeting with Highways re traffic calming measures in the village. Councillors met with a highways officer to discuss traffic calming in the village and a summary

of the meeting was circulated. It was reported that some speed checks have been carried out using the speed indicator device (SID). The PCSO's report was read out.

16. **Cemetery**

16.1. 02/06/15 To receive an update on the cemetery mapping software and training. CL and the clerk have been working on the cemetery map to reconcile the electronic map to the hand drawn ones. **Action: Clerk to finish the cemetery map corrections and return it to Pear Technologies.**

17. **Village Hall Management Committee.** *To receive an update from the VHMC.* CL reported that an electrical survey will be carried out in November. It is coming to the year end for the Village Hall and there should be a good surplus due to the reduction in maintenance and staff cost. No other major expenses were incurred. It is anticipated that the next year will have less income due to closures as a result of the proposed refurbishment.

18. **Ladycroft Park update.** *To receive an update from the Vale about Ladycroft Park issues.* The meeting took place with the ambulance trust.

19. **Risk Management**

19.1. 08/07/15 Review of effectiveness of internal audit process. The review has been carried out. Item closed.

19.2. 09/09/15 To decide on changes needed to safety checks at TFF Play Space. The clerk is still trying to set up a meeting with John Clark.

19.3. 09/09/15 To receive an update on tree work on FP24. Five trees were reported to OCC and only one of them was considered dangerous. See annex D.

19.4. 09/09/15 To request the risk assessment for the BVS bonfire night. Risk assessment received. Insurance documents awaited.

19.5. 14/10/15 To start Annual Review of Risks facing the Council and to agree a timetable. **Action: Clerk and CL to do initial Annual Review of Risks.**

20. **Correspondence**

20.1. **Items requesting a reply & consultations**

20.1.1. Request to meet with East Hagbourne's "Mind the Green Gap". **Action: Clerk to set up meeting with EHPC and the "Mind the Green Gap" group.**

20.1.2. Autumn Town and Parish Forum - 16 November 2015. Noted.

20.1.3. ORCC Your place: Housing, Communities, Neighbourhoods (6 Nov 2015). Noted.

20.2. **Items for information that have been circulated**

20.2.1. OALC update. Noted.

20.2.2. Wild Oxfordshire's future community work in Oxfordshire's parishes. Circulated and will be passed on to Sustainable Blewbury.

21. **Any other business**

Nothing discussed.

22. **To set the date of the next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on 11th November in the Vale Room.

Meeting closed 21h16

Annex A

Blewbury Parish Council

**Notes for Parish Councillors on Wednesday, 14th October 2015
from Cllr Janet Shelley & Cllr Reg Waite**

Local Plan 2031:

The Vale's Local Plan has been given the go ahead to move to the next stage of the examination process.

The Vale received a letter from the Planning Inspector yesterday confirming that following the Stage One hearings, which took place in September, the examination process can now move to Stage Two hearings.

Arrangements for Stage Two hearings will be published by the Planning Inspector in due course and will be made available on the council's website.

The Inspector's letter reads as follows –

12th October 2015

I would like to thank all those who took part in the recent Stage 1 hearing sessions for their constructive contributions to the debates.

In the light of all that I have now read and heard, and bearing in mind the potential for me to recommend main modifications to the plan (including in connection with matters discussed at the Stage 1 hearings), I consider that it is appropriate to move to Stage 2 of the Examination.

However, this is not a guarantee that the plan as a whole, or any particular part of it, will be found sound. Given this, and bearing in mind that many of the issues already discussed are inextricably linked with those which will be considered as part of Stage 2, it is not appropriate for me to set out further details of my initial views at this stage.

Arrangements will now be made for the Stage 2 hearing sessions to be held as soon as practicable, dates and Matters/Questions for these sessions will be published in due course.

*Yours sincerely
Malcolm Rivett
Inspector*

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Speculative Development Planning Applications:

P15/V1944/O – Outline planning permission for up to 40 dwellings on land off
Woodway Road, Blewbury
Received: 14th August 2015
Registered: 17th August 2015
Consultation: 17th August to 16th September 2015
Target decision date: 16th November 2015.

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Reminders for New Recycling Services:

Green bin collection weeks:

We can place tired or damaged textiles or clothes that aren't good enough for charity alongside our green bins for recycling. Please place items in suitable bags/sacks.

Please also continue to place any domestic used batteries in clear plastic bags and place on top of the green bins.

Grey bin collection weeks:

We can place small electrical items including electrical toys alongside our grey bins for recycling. Again please place items in suitable bags/containers.

Brown Garden waste bins:

During week commencing Monday, 19th October, all garden waste bin holders may place out one extra bins' worth of garden waste in sacks or re-usable bags (but not trade bags) – just make sure they're open so the crew can see what is in them.

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Ladycroft Park, Blewbury:

We will discuss.

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Go Active goes Gold in Rural Areas thanks to £227,000 funding boost:

The Vale and South Oxfordshire District Council have been awarded £227,000 to help older people in rural areas to become more active.

This award has come from Sport England and Go Active will target different villages each year to encourage people to do 30 minutes of moderate intensity physical activity each week. Sessions start in January.

Members of the local community are encouraged to volunteer to help spread the message about what's on offer and set up and deliver some sessions.

Taster sessions in the above will initially be held in Kingston Bagpuize, Steventon, Woodcote, Watlington, Chalgrove, Sutton Courtenay and Shiplake so look out for more detail.

Further sessions for elsewhere in southern Oxfordshire will be announced in the coming months.

Details of the programme will be available shortly on the website www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/gold and www.southoxon.gov.uk/gold

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Annex B – Lenghman’s report

July/August 2015

Footpaths

All footpaths are generally in good order except for encroaching hedge growth from residents properties. A notice has been included in the Paris Council Report in the Bulletin.

Cemetery

Good condition with grass regrowth improving after the weed treatment in June.

I have pruned a considerable amount off the trees as they were restricting the pathways.

TFF, Car Park & TFF Playspace

TFF main field in good condition

Car park continues to be a bit of a litter problem especially on weekends.

Trees in centre of car park have been pruned.

The play area has had a considerable amount of work done this last two months with construction of a ‘giant picnic table’, a new spring braking system for the zip wire instead of tyres and several items of swingwear being replaced for safety reasons. All units are now fully operational and in good condition.

Village Hall KAP Area

All in good condition

Storage Buildings

No issues

Equipment

Tractor and topper mower- no issues

Ferris Mower- this has an engine problem and is currently at Mark Shayler’s workshop for repair (29.8.15)

Orec Mower – The gearbox has gone completely and a quote for replacement and repair is in excess of £800. The mower is now awaiting disposal.

Annex C

Planning report for Parish Council – October 2015

Planning Applications

All Blewbury planning applications, decisions and Parish Council responses, including items under consideration, can be found in the ‘Parish’ section of the Blewbury website

(<http://blewbury.co.uk/parish/planning/>), which is updated once a week. Links are also provided to the main Vale Planning site, where full details can be obtained.

Responses from the Parish Council:

P15/V1507/FUL – 1 Downside – Change of use of existing outbuilding to a one-bedroom dwelling. BPC objects. In November 2014 BPC objected to a previous application P14/V1806 Change of use from study/home office to self-contained annexe on the grounds of change of use in principle, but also on the grounds that there is inadequate space for parking, that this site is already over-developed, and questions remain over the provision of main drainage and rights of access. These objections still apply.

P14/V1806 was withdrawn before determination on 5 Dec 2014. It is astonishing that the design and access statement for P15/V1507/FUL states that *'This application proposes the change of use of an existing ancillary residential outbuilding to a separate dwelling unit, capable of being occupied independently of the main house, 1 Downside.'* as the property in question is not an ancillary residential outbuilding but still a study/home office annexe. It is also surprising that the plans show an existing kitchen when the consent for such has not been given.

P15/V2004/HH – Bridus Cottage, South Street. Erection of new single storey 2-bay coach house. Demolition of existing buildings. BPC has no objection.

P15/V2093/FUL – Winterbrook Farm – Erection of a general purpose agricultural storage building. BPC has no objection.

P15/V2085/FUL – Palmers – Detailed plans for proposed new dwelling. BPC has no objection.

P15/V2171/HH – Pilgrim's Rest, Pilgrim's Way - Erection of single storey side and rear extensions, rear dormer window, change front dormer roof from flat to mono-pitched and removal of existing chimney breast and replace with a metal flue. BPC has no objection.

Decisions from the District Council:

P15/V1731/HH – The White House, London Road – Recladding of White House Studio Building. GRANTED.

P15/V1215/FUL and P15/V1216/LB – Land opposite Borlase, South Street.

Conversion, extension & renovation of existing barn and loggia to form a new dwelling. GRANTED.

P15/V1480/O – Upperton, Pilgrim's Way. New dwelling. GRANTED.

P15/V2005/HH – Clevedon, Church Lane – Erection of carport. GRANTED.

P15/V2004/HH – Bridus Cottage, South Street. Erection of new single storey 2-bay coach house. Demolition of existing buildings. GRANTED.

P15/V1883/FUL – Blewbury Village Hall - Extensions and alterations. GRANTED.

P15/V1507/FUL – 1 Downside – Change of use of existing outbuilding to a one-bedroom dwelling. REFUSED.

P15/V2093/FUL – Winterbrook Farm – Erection of a general purpose agricultural storage building. GRANTED.

Enquiries regarding planning in the parish may be sent to blewburypc@gmail.com

Annex D

Response from OCC re dead trees on Footpath 24

From: **McEwan-James, Arthur - E&E** <Arthur.McEwan-james@oxfordshire.gov.uk>

Date: 6 October 2015 at 14:26

Subject: RE: Robinson Close

To: Blewbury Parish Council Clerk <blewburypc@gmail.com>

Dear Elaine

Having heard back from the Land Registry regarding the ash tree alongside the garages I have written to the owner of the land on which the tree sits and asked for action to be taken.

I walked the footpath today and noted that there are a number of dead trees, mostly elm. None of these appear to be at risk of falling or restricting use of the footpath and are therefore of a low priority.

Whilst on site I did see that there is a fair amount of vegetation (mostly tree branches) growing over from the gardens of adjacent properties. Would the Parish be able to put a piece into its magazine / newsletter reminding residents of their obligation to remove anything which is encroaching out over the footpath?

It would be nice to see any vegetation removed this autumn / winter which would make it easier for our team to pay a visit to remove anything which is dead or dying from the footpath itself.

Best wishes

Arthur

Arthur McEwan-James

Acting Field Officer (South West)

Countryside Access Team

Oxfordshire County Council

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