

BLOXHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT JUBILEE HALL, BARLEY CLOSE, BLOXHAM ON MONDAY 2 MARCH 2026 AT 7.00PM

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

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

171/25 Apologies – Parish Councillor David Morris submitted his apologies because he was at work.

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

172/25 Declarations of Interest

Minute Number 178/25 (ii) – Traffic Calming Working Group – Councillor Richard Morley declared an interest because he was a resident of Strawberry Terrace.

Resolved that the interest be noted.

173/25 Minutes – Prior to the meeting, the minutes of the meeting held on 2 February 2026 had been circulated to the Parish Council and were taken as read.

Minute Number 162/25 (ii) – Traffic Calming – The following sentence be amended to read:

Signage would also be improved and a review of the yellow zig zag lines would be undertaken to possibly extend them to the top of the hill.

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 2 February 2026 be approved, with the amendment and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

174/25 Matters Arising

Minute Number 160/25, Open Forum – Councillor Neil Hegarty reported that the hedges overhanging the footpaths, which had been raised at the Drop-In and Chat, had already been reported to Fix My Street. The Clerk asked for the reference numbers to be sent to her and she would follow this up with the County Council and David Hingley. A note about the responsibilities of residents to cut back the trees and bushes on the properties would be included in the next Parish Council Newsletter. **Action TG**

Minute Number 160/25 – Open Forum – Councillor Stuart Hodge advised that sewage was continuing to be dumped into The Brook by Thames Water and this happened 71 times in 2024. This would be raised with Environment Agency via District Councillor Rob Pattenden. **Action TG**

Minute Number 160/25, Open Forum – The Chairman was yet to meet with Bloxham School, but the floodlights would be included on the agenda for this meeting.

175/25 Chairman's Announcements

- Fenced off Footpath from Painters Close to Winters Way – The closure of the footpath could not be reported to the County Council's Fix My Street web site because it was an unofficial cut through, not a public right of way or a County owned highway, such as a footpath.
- 25/02106/REM - OS Parcel 0006 Adjoining North Side of, Ells Lane, Bloxham – A meeting had been proposed with Cherwell District Council, Bloxham District Councillors and Deeley Homes. However, Nathaniel Stock, Planning Officer had suggested that the Parish Council should have a separate meeting from that with Deeley Homes. The Council confirmed it wished to meet with both Cherwell District Council and Deeley homes at the same time. **Action TG**

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- Bankside Phase 2, Oxford Road – A meeting was being held on Wednesday 4 March 2026 at 7pm on Zoom with Power On, regarding their project which involved the installation of 11kV cables, which would affect Ells Lane, the A361 and Wykham Lane. Roads would be closed for an extensive period and Councillors were concerned about the impact on businesses. The Clerk would contact the County Council to establish which highways officers had been involved with the project to discuss possible mitigation measures. **Action TG**
- Jubilee Park Management Committee – Councillor Mike Fenner had attended the Committee meeting the previous week on behalf of the Chairman and the Committee had requested clarification on the responsibilities of the play area and playing field. The Chairman agreed that a meeting would be held to clarify these issues. **Action AH**
- Training – The Chairman would be attending the OALC Biodiversity Crisis course, being held on 19 March 2026.
- Defibrillator Training – The first of the four defibrillator training courses was taking place on Saturday 18 April 2026, 11am to 1pm at Jubilee Hall.

176/25 The Slade – Prior to the meeting, Marie Jones, Warden at The Slade had circulated a report on the work at The Slade. Marie advised on her background and how she got involved with The Slade, which was circa 10 years ago. A monthly club was also held at the nature reserve to encourage children to appreciate the wildlife around them.

Marie provided information on recent activities, which included a volunteer who had designed an information sign for the pest house, a small mammal survey, further signs for the site and a work party would be arranged shortly. Repairs had been carried out to the boardwalk, as well as a cut to the meadow.

A tree survey had been completed, which included over 100 trees, some of which were affecting the pathways and would require work to cut them back. It was suggested that the tree survey be published on the Parish Council's web site. **Action TG**

The 'Wild about Bloxham' Club was continuing at two sites, Warriner Farm and The Slade. Biodiversity Bloxham had received a grant from the National Lottery which covered the costs to run the Club at Warriner School for two years.

Bloxham Scout Group had used the site for their 'Wildlife badge' and Bloxham School had arranged a volunteer day to help cut back the vegetation. There was also a Facebook page for The Slade.

Projects for the coming year included new information signs, further repair work to the boardwalks, tree maintenance work, ID plaques for the trees and a water quality survey.

Marie was thanked for all her hard work at The Slade and she left the meeting at this point.

A resident reported that the access to The Slade was muddy and asked whether gravel or some other suitable material could be laid to make the site more accessible. The Clerk agreed to contact Marie about this matter.

Action TG

177/25 Open Forum – A resident raised the issues of sewage being discharged into The Brook. This type of behaviour by water companies had been the subject of a Channel 4 documentary called 'Dirty Business'. The Chairman advised that the Parish Council was limited in its powers, but concerns could be highlighted to Thames Water and the Environment Agency.

District Councillor Rob Pattenden advised that rules regarding discharge into the water course should be far more strict and discharge was only allowable when there had been very heavy rainfall. This matter was part of Councillor Pattenden's Portfolio at Cherwell District Council and as a member of the Bloxham Health and Wellbeing Group, he would take this matter forward, with the support of County/District Councillor David Hingley.

The Parish Council felt that residents should be made aware of this issue and an article would be published in the village. **Action SH/TG**

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A resident raised the issue of large lorries using Strawberry Terrace and Brickle Lane to access Yew Tree Farm. The vehicles were causing damage to grass verges, kerb stones and cars and one lorry had knocked over a residents' wall. It was particularly dangerous when children were coming out of school and as they were not aware of the dangers of these vehicles on narrow roads. The resident requested a weight limit be considered. It was agreed that the County Council would be contacted for information on weight limits. **Action TG**

A resident asked whether the Parish Council would be objecting the planning application at The Ridgeway. The Chairman confirmed that an objection would be submitted to Cherwell District Council.

The residents were thanked for addressing 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)

178/25 Reports from County and District Councillors – Prior to the meeting, County Council David Hingley and District Councillor Rob Pattenden had circulated their joint report to the meeting.

Councillor Mike Fenner asked how many Councillors' seats there would be on the new Unitary authorities. Councillor Hingley advised that boundaries were based on existing boundaries and would be set up proportionately.

Councillor Pattenden reported that he would contact Tom Gubbins about the Health and Wellbeing Group and the proposed Ward Profile for Bloxham.

The Councillors were thanked for their reports.

Resolved that the reports be noted.

179/25 Environment/Village Matters

- i) Flooding – Prior to the meeting, Councillor Neil Hegarty had circulated his report to the Parish Council.

The Flooding Working Group was still progressing the flood management scheme at The Slade and there would be a meeting with various stakeholders. Grant funding was also available for the works.

The works to the drain line under the Bloxham School car park which had been scheduled for Easter, would now be completed during the summer holidays. Tony Brummell at Cherwell District Council had confirmed that the design element had been developed, but agreement was needed from Bloxham School to access their property to complete the work. The Chairman agreed to contact Bloxham School regarding this agreement.

There were no major issues with drains recently, despite the amount of straw which had been seen falling off trailers and into the gutters.

With regard to the land on South Newington Road where William Davis had secured planning permission, there had been pooling of water on the field. Support from landowners was required to assist with the flood management project, but not all were engaging with the process.

The Working Group members were thanked for all their hard work,

Resolved that the report be noted.

- ii) Traffic Calming Working Group – Prior to the meeting, Councillor Richard Morley had circulated the minutes of the Working Group meeting held on 9 February 2026.

As discussed earlier in the meeting, the County Council would be approached regarding a weight limit for Strawberry Terrace and Brickle Lane.

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Resolved that the report be noted.

- iii) Bloxham Health and Well Being Working Group – Prior to the meeting, Councillor Stuart Hodge, had circulated a report on the work of the Health and Well Being Working Group.

Resolved that the report be noted.

- iv) Local Government Reorganisation – The Parish Council discussed the proposals for the local government reorganisation in Oxfordshire.

Resolved that:

- 1) the Parish Council seeks clarification on how each of the three options will affect Parish Councils; and
- 2) if there is no reply, or clarification cannot be sought, then no response be submitted.

Action TG

- v) Spring Clean 2026 – The Parish Council discussed organising a village spring clean.

Resolved that Councillor Laura Noakes to organise the village spring clean/litter pick for 2026. **Action LN**

- vi) Bloxham Annual Parish Meeting (APM) – The Parish Council discussed the Bloxham APM being held on 22 April 2026 at 7pm at Jubilee Hall.

Resolved that the report be noted.

180/25

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 objections had been made by the Parish Council in respect of the following planning applications/works to trees:

25/03233/TPO

The Poplars, Barford Road, Bloxham

G2 Leyland cypress x 6 - remove all trees in group to ground level - Subject to TPO 24/1988

26/00202/TCA

St Marys Lodge, Church Street, Bloxham

T1 - Holly - Remove to ground level due to heavy lean over the adjacent main road & its position on top of the boundary wall.

T2 - Portuguese Laurel - Crown lift to 2m to enable the establishment of the hedge below along the front boundary wall.

G1 – Hazels - Coppice the tree within the group that's leaning on the boundary fence, cut back all branches overhanging the adjacent lane to boundary and pollard remaining trees to 3m

26/00296/F

95 Courtington Lane, Bloxham

Part two storey/part single storey extension to rear. Single storey extension to front

Resolved that, it be noted and approved that objections have been made by the Parish Council in respect of the following planning application:

25/03255/F

High Gates, Queen Street, Bloxham

Demolition and replacement of the existing dwelling

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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:

26/00264/F	Land Adj To Ridgeway House, Hogg End, Bloxham Erection of 4 x 1.5 storey dwellings and 1 x detached dwelling with associated works
26/00365/TCA	Humber House, Humber Street, Bloxham T1 - Elder - Remove to ground level.
26/00437/TCA	Mungret, Queen Street, Bloxham T1 Columnar Yew - Crown reduction by 4.5 metres approx.
26/00432/TCA	The Croft, Little Bridge Road, Bloxham T1 Winter Flowering Cherry - remove tree, not to be replaced
26/00306/F	OS Parcel 6426 North of Disused Quarry and Adjoining West Side of, Tadmarton Road, Bloxham Creation of culverted agricultural access from Tadmarton Road

- 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 discussed the review of the Bloxham Neighbourhood Plan.

Resolved that:

- 1) the report be noted; and
 - 2) the Bloxham Neighbourhood Development Plan be progressed to the examination stage of the process. **Action TG**
- iv) 25/01009/OUT – Land East of Barford Road – The Parish Council discussed an application for the demolition of existing building and development of up to 100 dwellings (Use Class C3) alongside open space, sustainable drainage and ancillary infrastructure. All Matters Reserved except for primary means of vehicular access from Barford Road.

Resolved that the Parish Council reiterates its original objection to application 25/01009/OUT. **Action TG**

- v) Rural Housing Allocation in Local Plan – The Parish Council discussed making a representation to the Cherwell Local Plan Examination.

Resolved that the Parish Council will not be making any further representations or attending the Cherwell Local Plan examination. **Action TG**

181/25 Parish Council Matters

- i) Vacancies – The Clerk reported that there had not been any applications for co-option onto the Parish Council.

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Resolved that the report be noted

- ii) Parish Council Elections – The Clerk reported that Parish Council elections were being held on Thursday 7 May 2026.

Resolved that the date of the Parish Council elections be noted.

- iii) Drop-In and Chat – Councillors Stuart Hodge and Neil Hegarty reported on the issues which had been raised at the last session and that the next session was being held on Saturday 14 March 2026.

There was a discussion about the issues of anti-social behaviour at St Mary's Church and the Clerk was requested to contact the PCC about progress with the CCTV project and if it had been installed, how effective it had been. Thames Valley Police would also be asked to monitor the area.

Resolved that the report be noted.

- iv) Social Media Platforms & Communications – The Parish Council discussed its communications and social media platforms and now the Council could increase its publicity.

Resolved that this matter be deferred to the next meeting of the Parish Council for further information.
Action TG

- v) Staffing Committee – Prior to the meeting, the minutes of the Staffing Committee held on 18 February 2026 had been circulated to the Parish Council.

Resolved that the minutes be noted and the recommendations be approved.

182/25 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 2 March 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 28 February 2026 and the Unity Trust bank statements for February 2026.

- 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.

- iv) Parish Council Bank Accounts – The Parish Council discussed additional bank accounts for Parish Council funds.

Resolved that:

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- 1) a Public Sector Deposit Fund bank account be opened with CCLA Investments:
- 2) £125,000 be transferred from the Unity Trust Account to the new CCLA Investments accounts; and
- 3) the signatories on the account be the Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer Theresa Goss and Councillors Joanna Barton, Amanda Baxter, Alex Harrison and Nick Rayner.

Action TG

183/25 Correspondence – There was no further correspondence.

184/25 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 185/25 on the grounds that it could involve the likely disclosure of private and confidential information which was not in the public domain.

185/25 Quote for Lights at St Mary's Church – Councillor Nick Rayner reported that he was awaiting an update from Simon Angel and would report back at the next meeting.

Resolved that the report be noted.

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

186/25 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 13 April 2026
- Wednesday 22 April 2026 (Annual Parish Meeting)
- Monday 11 May 2026
- Monday 1 June 2026

187/25 Items for Future Agendas/Items of Information

- Wildlife Corridors
- Purchase of devices to monitor pollution levels
- Tom Gubbins, Health and Well Being Group
- Community Events

(The meeting ended at 9.10pm)

Chairman – 13 April 2026