BLOXHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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

PRESENT: Councillor David Bunn, Chairman; Councillors Joanna Barton, Amanda Baxter, Neil Hegarty, Richard Morley, David Morris and Nick Rayner.

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

98/26 Apologies – Parish Councillor Mike Fenner submitted his apologies because he had another appointment.

Resolved that the apologies from Councillor Mike Fenner be accepted and the absences authorised.

99/26 Declarations of Interest – There were no declarations of interest.

100/26 Minutes – Prior to the meeting, the minutes of the meeting held on 5 October 2026 had been circulated to the Parish Council and were taken as read.

Minute Number 88/26 (iii) – Health and Wellbeing Community Group – Councillor Joanna Barton proposed that resolution number 2 be deleted and amended to read:

2) the Parish Council to support the application to Cherwell District Council by allocating £100 grant funding.

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 5 October 2026 be approved, with the above amendment and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

101/26 Matters Arising – There were no matters arising.

102/26 Chairman's Announcements

- Flooding Working Group Projects - The Chair thanked Parish Councillor Neil Hegarty and Jerry Wood for their considerable efforts in advancing the work of the Flooding Working Group, including the successful completion of the leaky dam project at The Slade, which attracted positive coverage on local news.

  Special recognition was given to Jerry for maintaining the momentum of the project throughout its development and ensuring its successful completion. Appreciation was also extended to the many volunteers who supported the initiative.

  It was noted that the Parish Council would reimburse the hosting and associated costs of the Stop Bloxham Flooding website, which had been covered by Jerry Wood previously. **Action NH/TG**

- Engagement with Cherwell District Council – It was noted that, following the adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan, further discussion with Cherwell District Council was required in relation to Policies BL1, BL5 and BL6, particularly regarding the mix of housing types and the nature of developments required within the Parish.

  A meeting had been held with Nat Stock, during which several points were clarified. The Section 106 agreements for both the Barford Road and William Davis developments remained in progress. Members agreed that it was important to establish who had responsibility for approving the market housing element of the developments in accordance with the agreed 65% allocation.

  Whilst the affordable housing provision has been agreed, the market housing element was still to be determined. It was noted that this issue needed to be addressed to ensure that the approved housing mix was fully reflected within the developments.

- Litter Signage – A quote had been received for ten signs from Edge Signs and the quote had been accepted.

- Gladmans Development, Quarry Close, Bloxham – A planning application to discharge the conditions for the site had been submitted and it was possible that Persimmon Homes were the developer.

- Drop-In and Chat – Members agreed to invite the Neighbourhood Policing Team to engage with residents regarding ongoing concerns about anti-social behaviour in the village, with a view to identifying and implementing appropriate solutions.

- Planning Appeal, The Ridgeway, Bloxham – It was noted that an appeal in respect of the refusal of planning permission had been lodged with the Planning Inspectorate. The appeal process would be conducted through written representations only, with no hearing or opportunity for oral submissions. Members requested that Cherwell District Council ensured that a copy of the new Neighbourhood Plan was submitted to the Planning Inspector for consideration. **Action TG**

103/26 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)

104/26 Reports from County and District Councillors – District Councillor Rob Pattenden reiterated that an appeal in respect of the refusal of planning permission at The Ridgeway had been submitted to the Planning Inspector. Councillor Pattenden did not expect the application to be approved given there was such a strong case for the original refusal.

Councillor Pattenden was pleased the Bloxham Neighbourhood Plan had been approved by Cherwell District Council on 19 October 2026.

It was reported that Cherwell District Council's Executive had considered the proposed parking charges in Banbury and had subsequently withdrawn charges for evening and overnight parking in council managed car parks. Members were advised that a comprehensive Parking Strategy would be developed and published in consultation with local businesses and other key stakeholders. Whilst recognising the importance of supporting the vitality of Banbury town centre, it was noted that Cherwell District Council incurred annual operating and maintenance costs of approximately £1.8 million in relation to its car parks. Consequently, the Council must seek to recover a proportion of these costs, whilst ensuring that parking charges did not discourage residents and visitors from accessing the town centre.

Councillor Hingley reported that proposed changes to the planning process which removed Ward Councillors' ability to call-in planning applications to Planning Committee, were being driven by national Government policy and that failure to implement the required changes could place authorities in breach of their statutory obligations. Members were advised that the Government was seeking to take a more centralised approach to planning matters because concerns were raised that calling-in planning applications to Planning Committees, was delaying decision making. Under the proposed arrangements, more decisions would be determined solely by planning officers in accordance with delegated powers.

It was reported that the Local Government Review had resumed, with proposals being reconsidered for three unitary authorities, including the Northern Oxfordshire Unitary model, which reflected the original proposal. Members were advised that the implementation timetable had been delayed by approximately one year. Under the revised programme, Cherwell District Council elections were expected to take place in 2027, followed by elections for the new unitary authority in 2028. It was anticipated that 2028 to 2029 would serve as a transition period prior to the full implementation of the new arrangements.

It was reported that the proposed Thames Valley Mayoral Authority was expected to be established, with mayoral elections anticipated to take place in 2028. Members noted that the proposed authority area did not include Buckinghamshire, which was considered unusual as it did not align with the boundaries proposed under the new unitary authority arrangements. It was further noted that whilst the LGR proposals remained subject to formal Government approval and therefore did not represent the final decision, it was considered unlikely that significant changes would be made at this stage of the process.

Councillor David Hingley would be awarding his Councillor Priority Fund and was minded to allocate funds for a new VAS/SID for Bloxham.

County Councillor Gareth Epps was working on the release of the Section 106 funds for the crossing by the Primary School.

The tour of the Habitat Bank on Ells Lane would be attended by the Chairman and Councillors Joanna Barton and Nick Rayner. **Action TG**

The Councillors were thanked for their reports.

105/26 Environment/Village Matters

i) Flooding – Prior to the meeting, Councillor Neil Hegarty had circulated a report on the work of the Flooding Working Group. The report was available on the Parish Council's website.

Councillor Hegarty highlighted a number of points in his report, including the success of the leaky dam project at The Slade and the project around Courtington Lane/Workhouse Lane.

Councillor Hegarty was thanked for this report.

Resolved that the report be noted.

ii) Traffic Calming Working Group – Councillor Richard Morley reported that there had been discussions with the County Council since October 2025 in respect of the crossing by the Primary School, but there had still not been any progress.

The Parish Council had also received an email from a resident of Crabb Tree Close regarding parking by Warriner School parents. However, the Parish Council could not assist with this matter as Crabb Tree Close was a private road. It had been suggested that the residents could use a private enforcement company, but it was acknowledged this action would displace the parking to other areas of the village.

On Friday 6 November 2026, the Community Speedwatch Team would be trialing the Adderbury speed monitoring camera in the village, with a view to purchasing a unit if the trial was successful.

Councillor Morley had also circulated to the Parish Council, the draft questions for the survey for 20mph speed restrictions.

Councillor Morley was thanked for his report.

Resolved that:

1) the report be noted; and
2) the Traffic Calming Working Group to investigate how HGV's on Strawberry Terrace could be prohibited. **Action RM**

iii) Health and Wellbeing Community Group – Prior to the meeting, a report had been circulated to the Parish Council. The next meeting was on 5 December 2026.

Resolved that the report be noted.

iv) Disabled Parking on Church Street – The Parish Council discussed a request for a disabled parking space on Church Street, Bloxham (near to The Loft).

Resolved that the request not be progressed and the faded white lining be reported to the County Council for it to be reinstated. **Action AB**

v) Remembrance Sunday – The Parish Council discussed the Remembrance Day Parade being held on Sunday 8 November 2026.

Resolved that:

1) the report be noted;
2) a £50 donation be made to South Central Ambulance Charity for providing the First Aid cover for the event. **Action TG**

vi) Queen Street/Greenhills Park Footpath – The Parish Council discussed the condition of the footpath, which was a Public Right of Way.

Resolved that the Chairman to contact the County Council with regard to progressing improvements to the footpath. **Action DB**

106/26 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:

26/02269/F 26 Colesbourne Road, Bloxham
Demolition of existing single-storey rear extension and erection of a larger replacement single-storey rear extension (30sqm), alterations to fenestration and associated works

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

26/02212/F High Gates, Queen Street, Bloxham
Erection of a detached carport (with 2 parking spaces) and a single-storey ancillary domestic outbuilding comprising a games/garden room and garden storage

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:

26/02443/LB & 26/02441/F The Old Bakery, High Street, Bloxham
Eaves tile guards to front elevation

26/02530/TCA Steeple Barn, Painters Close, Bloxham
Tree works

26/02081/F Pargeters House, Merrivales Lane, Bloxham
Replacement of two windows

26/02663/TCA Pophleys, Banbury Road, Bloxham
Tree works

26/02691/DISC OS Parcel 0069, Tadmarton Road, Bloxham

Discharge of Condition 8 (Phase II Geo-Environmental Assessment) of appeal decision APP/C3105/W/25/3363572 relating to 24/01908/OUT

26/02761/TCA Ashwell House, Stonehill, Bloxham
Tree works

Email Hartshill Close application reference to DH.

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 Plan had been approved by Cherwell District Council on 19 October 2026.

Resolved that the report be noted.

107/26 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 10 October 2026.

The next session was being held on 14 November 2026.

Resolved that the report be noted.

iii) Zoho Workdrive – The Parish Council discussed trialing Zoho Workdrive for Parish Council documents.

Resolved that the trial to continue and Councillors to review the documents in Workdrive. **Action ALL**

108/26 Finance

i) Section 106 Funds – The Parish Council discussed forward funding the Section 106 funds held at the County Council for the pedestrian crossing outside Bloxham Primary School.

Resolved that forward funding of the Section 106 funds for the pedestrian crossing by the Primary School be agreed in principle, subject to further information and discussions with the County Council. **Action RM/DB**

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 2 November 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 October 2026 and the Unity Trust bank and CCLA statements for October 2026.

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

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Resolved that the report be noted.

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) Members Allowances Scheme 2026/2027 – The Parish Council considered the report of Cherwell District Council's, Parish Remuneration Panel.

Resolved that:

1) the report be noted;
2) no allowances be paid to the Chairman or Councillors;
3) allowances to Councillors be included in Budget for 2027/2028; and
4) travel and subsistence be paid to Councillors when on Parish Council business, in accordance with the Scheme, on the production of receipts.

Action TG

109/26 Correspondence – The Chairman highlighted an email which had been received from Sir Tony Baldry in respect of Parish Council grant funding for St Mary's Church. The contents of the email were noted.

Thanks were also passed to Tom Smith for assisting the Parish Council when it was removing the previous power supply to the Christmas Tree. Mr Smith had supplied a forklift truck and safety cage to allow the cable to be unhooked.

110/26 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 minute numbered 111/26 on the grounds that it could involve the likely disclosure of private and confidential information which was not in the public domain.

111/26 Play Equipment Surfacing at the David Tyrrell Recreation Ground – The Parish Council considered quotes for replacement play equipment surfacing at Jubilee Park and the Recreation Ground.

Resolved that the quote from Wicksteed Leisure for repairs to the surfacing at the David Tyrrell Park play area be approved. **Action TG**

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

112/26 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 7 December 2026
- Monday 4 January 2027
- Monday 1 February 2027

97/26 Items for Future Agendas/Items of Information

- Access from Greenhill Park and Winters Way

- St Mary's Church Clock
- Noticeboards in the Village
- Additional streetlight Courtington Lane/The Pound

Thanks Tom Smith for help with the xmas treet lighting.

(The meeting ended at 8.45pm)

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Chairman – 7 December 2026

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