



Blockley Parish Council

Minutes - Thursday 18th February 2021 7.00pm, remote via Zoom.

Present: Cllrs – Tom Bradley (Chair), Jon Bryan (Vice-Chair), Paul Baines, Ben Cowles, Charlotte Goldring, Jenny Lidsey, Eleanor Thorneycroft and Clare Turner

Cllr Sue Jepson (District Councillor), Cllr Lynden Stowe (County Councillor)

The Clerk/RFO: Sarah Longbottom

Members of the public: 2

1. Apologies for absence: None
2. Items for any other business: None
3. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations for items on the agenda – None
4. Public Participation: 2 members of the public (MOP) were in attendance for items 1 to 4 only.

A member of the public had submitted a question in advance in regard to the water leakage at Lower Street, Blockley. An update of the current situation was given including the water companies’ assessments. The uncertainty and lack of accountability was reported to be causing prolonged distressed to the residents. The MOP concluded by asking ‘What can the Parish Council do to resolve the sewerage / water leak on Lower Street which has been going on for over a year? It was noted that Highways and Environmental Health had been advised of the matter. The Chair is to write to both Severn Trent and Thames Water and additionally the District Councillor suggested that Environmental Health are contacted. The Chair recommended that the member of the public wrote to the local MP.

5. RESOLVED. Approval of the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 21st January 2021. The minutes were unanimously agreed to be an accurate record of the meeting. To be signed by the Chair at a later date as the meeting was remote.

5.1

Minute reference	Action (responsibility) from 21 st January 2021	
15.10.2020:16.1	TB is to arrange the SGH Management Committee to meet with The Heritage Society and discuss the payment of the reinstatement valuation	Postponed until March
19.11.2020:9.2	TB, CG and CT are to meet to discuss the obligations of SGH committee membership and review the conveyance to understand how the charity works	Postponed until March
20.01.2020:10.3	Clerk to obtain costs to convert Station Rd phone-box to historical and geographical information spot	Complete
20.01.2020:11.2	Churchill Close public consultation survey to be written and circulated across the parish	Complete
20.01.2020:11.3	Environmental committee to meet	Complete
20.01.2020:13.1	Blockley defibrillator to be relocated ASAP with a heated cabinet	Ongoing
20.01.2020:13.2	JL to make enquiries into the demand for first aid courses	Complete
20.01.2020:13.2	The Clerk is to contact the shop committee about recycling provisions	Complete

6. County and District Councillors’ reports: Cllr Sue Jepson (District Councillor)
Cllr Sue Jepson informed members that there is a full district council meeting on 24th February with a vote on the budget. Cllr Jepson informed members that she has concerns regarding the proposed 3.7% council tax increase, equating to £138.93 for Band B, the increase to £40 for garden waste collection and the proposal to borrow £54,000,000. Cllr Jepson also informed members that she opposes the proposition of cashless car parks from March and the charge of £5 for replacement kerbside recycling bags and boxes. Cllr Jepson concluded that the cabinet has voted on the new crowdfunding scheme and that it was not a full council decision.

Cllr Lynden Stowe (County Councillor) informed members that as a former leader of Cotswold District Council he is concerned about the practices and culture at CDC at present. He informed members of the proposed increases to the council tax rises; 1.99% general 2.76% adult social care (separate budget) 4.75% total. It was noted that the increase is above inflation and it was attributed to the increase costs in childcare. The latest COVID-19 figures were reported at 60 per 100,000 in the Cotswolds. Cllr Stowe concluded asking members to consider options for the Highways local scheme that will continue next year regardless of who is elected as the county councillor in May.

Cllr Stowe left the meeting.

7. Planning: Cllr Cowles

21/00001/FUL: Peppercorn Cottage High Street Blockley

21/00230/FUL: Old Silk Mill Draycott Road Blockley

20/04667/FUL: 1 Upper Folley Paxford

Any concerns are to be sent to Cllr Cowles and copied to Cllr Jepson in case an application needs to be considered by the planning committee.

Cllr Jepson left the meeting.

8. Finance: – Cllr Cowles

8.1 Finance Report 16th January 2021 – 12th February 2021 detailing all accounts held by the council and income and expenditure for the period was circulated to all councillors.

8.2 RESOLVED unanimously to approve expenditure from 16th January 2021 – 12th February 2021, proposed BC, seconded TB.

8.1 Consider a grant application from Blockley Blokes Choir, the merits of the application were discussed, proposed JL, seconded TB, approved unanimously to award £200.

9. Parish facilities:

9.1 To propose the purchasing and installation of benches across the parish – Cllrs Cowles
Discussed contractor options and the unique offering of Greenfields Ltd, members voted unanimously to waive the requirement for Financial Regulation 43.1.

RESOLVED to appoint Greenfields Ltd to supply 15 benches across the parish, installation and warranty at £6,630, proposed BC, seconded PB, approved unanimously.

9.2 To consider costings and design of Station Road phone-box refurbishment
Alternative costs were circulated in advance of the meeting as a guide for the project. The clerk is to liaise with the local artist who has offered to design the interpretation boards to facilitate the local groups and societies that have agreed to contribute to the project. (ACTION: 18.02.21:9.2)

10. Recreation update: - Cllr Goldring

10.1 To review the maintenance of the beech hedge at Churchill Close
RESOLVED for Thomas Fox to cut the beach hedge at Churchill Close at a cost of £600.00, proposed TB, seconded JB, approved unanimously.

10.2 To discuss the progress of the Churchill Close consultation and next steps
The survey had 164 responses at the time of the meeting. Councillors agreed to keep the survey open whilst the paper responses are input. A final notice publicising the consultation survey is to be posted on the BPC Facebook page. Once the survey is closed, the open questions are to be coded by CT. A working group are to meet to discuss the results. (ACTION: 18.02.21:10.2)

11. Environment Sustainability Committee: update from Cllr Turner and Cllr Baines

11.1 To appoint an interim Chair of the Committee
RESOLVED to appoint Cllr Turner as Chair of the Environmental Sustainability Committee, propose CT seconded PB, approved unanimously.

11.2 To propose the committee terms of reference and approve minutes
RESOLVED to approve the committee terms of reference and the minutes of 4th February 2021. Propose CT, seconded PB, abstain TB, approved by majority.

11.3 To propose a parish declaration to address environment sustainability at a parish/local level
RESOLVED to approve the following declaration: *Council notes that:-*

- *The global position on climate change is clear: the world has already reached around 1°C of post-industrial warming; extreme weather events happening now can be attributed with confidence to warming at this scale, and the impacts of climate breakdown are already causing serious damage around the world.*
- *In a business-as-usual world, reaching global warming of 4°C by 2100, significant and systemic impacts will occur, against which the effect of adaptation actions will be limited. The UK faces damaging local impacts related to extreme heat, water shortages, sea level rise, and global impacts such as food price shocks and greatly increased migratory pressures.*
- *The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's 1.5°C special report (2018) demonstrates that, with ambitious action, limiting climate change impacts to 1.5°C may still be possible.*
- *All governments (national, regional and local) have a duty to act, and to lead change on the ground. The urgency of the situation is such that local governments that recognise this, must not wait for their national governments to change their policies.*
- *Strong policies to cut emissions will have a wide range of associated health, well-being and economic benefits that will improve the quality of life for our residents.*
- *It is no longer adequate to think of biodiversity losses as a potential future threat but rather it must now be treated as a real and present issue that needs addressing to avoid mass extinctions and irreversible changes to the provision of ecosystem services.*

Council therefore commits to:

1. *Declare a 'Climate and Ecological Emergency' that requires urgent and comprehensive action.*
2. *Establish and support an Environmental Sustainability Committee*
3. *Produce, in collaboration with the wider community, a Climate and Ecological Emergency Action Plan.*
4. *Embed Climate and Ecological emergency considerations in all work areas and decision-making processes.*

A full paper was circulated in advance of the meeting. Proposed CT, seconded JB, objection TB, abstention ET, approved by majority.

12. Burial Ground: Cllr Bryan

12.1 To propose the replacement and restoration of the cemetery wall finials and rail
RESOLVED for Chipping Campden Supplies to cast three finials at a cost of £1,300.

12.2 To discuss future options for burial/cremation grounds in the parish

Cllr Bryan and the Clerk are to further research options for additional burial and cremation plots as the availability of space is estimated to be exhausted by 2025/26 (ACTION: 18.02.21:12.2)

13. Clerk's update and correspondence log: both reports circulated in advance of the meeting. The matter of recycling in the centre of Blockley village is to be raise with the shop by CT and with CDC by TB. (ACTION: 18.02.21:13.1) The Environmental Sustainability Committee will discuss facilitating litter picking in the absence of CDC supplying equipment in 2021 due to COVID-19 restrictions (ACTION: 18.02.21:13.2)

14. A.O.B: None

15. Date of next meeting: Thursday 18th March 2021, 7pm.

Meeting closed 8:44pm.

Approved by Blockley Parish Council:

Signed.....

Print.....

Date.....

Matters outstanding/arising

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15.10.2020: 16.1	TB is to arrange the SGH Management Committee to meet with The Heritage Society and discuss the payment of the reinstatement valuation
19.11.2020:9.2	TB, CG and CT are to meet to discuss the obligations of SGH committee membership and review the conveyance to understand how the charity works
18.02.21:9.2	Clerk to co-ordinate the submission of content to the artist designing the Station Road phone-box refurbishment
18.02.21:10.2	Survey responses to be coded by CT. A working group are to meet to discuss the results.
18.02.21:12.1	JB and the Clerk are to further research options for additional burial and cremation plots
18.02.21:13.1	CT to discuss recycling with Blockley shop, TB to discuss with CDC
18.02.21:13.2	An agenda item for ESC on the 11.03.21 parish litter pick facilitation

Appendix A:

£78.80	S&T	NEST Pension Scheme	Pension
£39.37	PGS	Grundon	Parish waste
£23.98	Admin	Zoom Video Comminucations Inc	Zoom - Dec
£17.00	Admin	Caroline Scobie	Payroll Dec
£45.00	PGS	R A Dunn	Paxford memorial - Dec
£60.00	PGS	Community Heartbeat Trust	Defib thermal bag
£235.24	S&T	HMRC	PAYE/NI
£155.07	Admin	British Telecommunications BT	Broadband/phone
£83.33	YR	Blockley Sports Utilities Ltd	MUGA hire Feb
£479.17	PGS	Henchman Ltd	Hi Step platform