

Blockley Parish Council

**Minutes**

**Thursday 20th March 2025**

**Draycott MISSION, 7pm**

**Meeting opened: 1900h**

**Present:** Cllr & Chair Jon Bryan (JB), Cllr & Vice Chair & District Cllr Clare Turner (CT), Cllr Chris Leach (CL), Cllr Thomas Bradley (TB), Cllr Jez John (JJ), Cllr Andy Turton (AT), Eleanor Thorneycroft (ET), Barbara Pond GRCC

**Apologies:** None

**Not Present:** Lynden Stowe

**Members of Public:** Chris Palengat (CP), Roger Thornborough (RT), Steve Downing (SD), Sheila Weir (SW)

**Minutes:** Clerk & RFO Nikki Holt (NH)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence.
2. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations for items on the agenda – On SGH Committee: *TB, CT & ET .* HaveSchool age children: *CT, JB*
3. Public Participation - Meeting was suspended at this point to hear any representations by members of the public. Resident RT asked for update on sign at end of Draycott Road. CT updated RT and will follow up. SW brought up the sheep problem – CT updated resident on police involvement; they are engaging with farmer, no lack of will, barriers to implement new fencing include finance and waiting for Govt. funding. Frequent offenders are being sold. Community support would be helpful. Highways approached for temp signage but no appropriate messaging in stock, so BPC will procure. CT presented various signage options and pricing. **ACTION**: CT & NH to liaise re temp signage.

On conclusion of public participation, council business resumed.

1. Resolved to approve of the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 20th February 2025. Agreed by majority. ET abstained as not present at Feb meeting
   1. Matters arising – **see appendix 1**.
2. County and District Councillors’ updates.

County Cllr update – None provided

District Cllr update – **see appendix 2**.

1. Finance: Cllr Bryan
   1. Resolved to approve Financial Report 18.02.25 - 17.03.25 including bank reconciliations for February & detailing all accounts held by the council as circulated & shared prior to meeting. Unanimous
   2. Resolved to approve Transactions for period 18.02.25 - 17.03.25 as shared prior to meeting. Unanimous
   3. Resolved to approve Annual Membership of GAPTC. Unanimous
   4. Resolved to co-opt New Councillor. Unanimous. **ACTION**: NH to organise BPC email address and send Register of interests to CDC
   5. To approve amendments to Grant Awarding Policy Document as shared prior to meeting: deferred to April meeting when all policies will be reviewed
   6. Resolved to allocate BPC Policies for annual review to all Councillors as circulated prior to meeting **ACTION**: All Cllrs to review & update and put into TEAMS Policy Review Folder for April by 11.04.25 **See appendix 3**.
2. Youth & Recreation: Cllr Leach
   1. Received Y&R update, good meeting on 04.03 Younity Youth (YY) may need to create some separate groups due to numbers rising. YY have contacted 360 Fit to see if they can get offer and will contact World Jungle to create an event for seniors. YY to have a stall at Blockley Fair. Lots of creative and interesting ideas for retention throughout the summer period. BPC could possibly fund match with any surplus from this financial year. SLA review will take place on 28.05.25.
   2. Received an update on details for May Sports Camps: Cllr Thorneycroft will check if there is further budget requirement and will book BSSC. Additional budget requirement to be specified to office by 07-08 April **ACTION**:ET/CL will send info to NH. ET to book BSSC
3. Community: Cllr Turner
   1. Resolved to consider funding for traffic flow surveys (volume and speed) for locations around the parish. Presented Speedwatch update. Resolved to consider other villages in parish and speed lines across roads **ACTION**: JJ& AT to consider 3 locations for Paxford, NH to contact Ro Thompson re 2 locations in Draycott. NH to contact Jonathan Chatfield in A Magna to get proposed locations for 2.
   2. Received update on spring litter picks CT acknowledged all volunteers who participated. Special thanks to Sue Salmon who opened up LVH and Ro Thompson for Draycott, AT and Robert Burch in Paxford and Jonathan Chatfield for Aston Magna. Chipping Campden cubs have borrowed litter grabbers
   3. Received an update on matters relating to police and crime see attached report – appendix 3. CT attended a meeting last week, issue of low morale in force. CT trying to organise an online update meeting with Simon Ellison – waiting to hear back on date. Police will produce a report for the Annual Parish Meeting. Thefts have been increased in area; organised crime is an ongoing issue. Staffing numbers are decreasing – not police but PCSO’s.
   4. Received update on actions to address residents' concerns over livestock on roads – see Public Participation above
   5. Resolved to agree VE day collaboration/contribution up to £500 but cannot be to church organisation. Unanimous. **ACTION:** JB/CT/NH to liaise with Rev’d Delap
4. St George’s Hall: Cllr Bradley
   1. Received update, next Cttee meeting 27.03.25. Bad co PAT testing certificate outstanding. Mice in servery requires joinery work to box in. **ACTION:** TB to send finance report to NH. SGH AGM is on 29.05.25 Sarah will liaise with NH
5. Burials: Cllr Leach
   1. Received update
   2. Council received update on Insurance implications of survey; signage, fencing and costs associated
   3. Council considered quotations for Churchyard work & Cemetery work. New Cemetery land/site still being searched for. **ACTION**: NH/JB To contact T Gooding to find out if there are any brownfield sites in parish
6. Personnel Committee: Cllr Turner
   1. Received report on findings for outsourcing personnel: Cllr Turner & Cllr John. CP offered to take Personnel Lead will be voted on in April meeting **ACTION**: NH to add to April Agenda
   2. To receive payroll transfer update: Cllr John. **ACTION:** JJ needs JB to sign a link, NH has shared form with current provider
7. Planning: Cllr Turton
   1. Review of current planning applications as circulated & shared prior to meeting.
   2. Council received update on Housing Needs Survey undertaken from Barbara Pond of GRCC. Barbara explained background of the organisation. Aim to enable housing rather than building them. Survey was sent out to every household in parish and businesses in area. Detailed results of what was identified as requirements. GRCC build 10-20 units on rural exception sites, must have a connection to the settlement. 5-9 /year to be built. Wants us to agree, in principal with them pursuing this. This will be part of the evidence gathering for NDP . BPC advised none of this can be voted on now – it will have to go onto agenda for next meeting. Cllr Turton raised point that NDP must drive this process. Follow up for Cllrs after proper digestion. Tim Gwilliam will be in touch with AT. GRCC can support with event to understand Neighbourhood plan, there is a grant for creating NDP – NDP must include. **ACTION:** AT to follow up NDP with Barbara Pond . AT to advise agenda item for April meeting
8. Website Update: Cllr John
   1. Received report on initial findings. **ACTION:** NH to provide Roy Balgobin’s contact details to JJ. NH& JJ to meet and follow up before next meeting

ET left the meeting 21.19

1. Clerk’s Highlights – as circulated and shared prior to meeting **ACTION:** NH to arrange card for MO’s bereavement
2. To receive Parish Councillors’ reports on matters not on the agenda. CT update met with R. Grey on outstanding Highways issues on 18.03.25 **ACTION**: CT &NH to meet.

Meeting closed 21.59

**Date of next meeting: 17th April 2025, Little Village Hall, Blockley, 7pm**

**FINANCE**

**Bank:**

Current Account Balance: £42,479.90

Instant Access Account Balance: £149,431.00

**Total £191,910.90**

**Adjusted Bank Balance considering unpresented payments and receipts Total: £190,957.65**

The bank was last reconciled to the 28th February 2025

**Income:**

* £210 memorial fee S.Wilton
* £4,230 CiL reserves transfer

**Expenditure:**

View Transaction report (as to be minuted) for all transactions over reported period. Of note:

* £364.08 CL
* £79.74 + £224.89 Dorn hill equipment services
* £4,230 wood & stairs ltd bus stop timber (CiL)

**Notes:**

***Interest gross rate reduction 2.5- 2.25% as of 5th May***

***BT price increase 1st April 6.4%***

***SGH follow up re. £950 lighting upgrade – Propose CC 03.20 additional grounds care (£2.3k surplus)***

**Re: 20.2.25.10.1** Stage 2 Cemetery Survey max £3,900 NET – further consultation not going to deliver required information.

**Re:20.2.25.10.1** Additional Grounds works for Churchyard £1,390 completed, additional works undertaken to clear extra pine mulch at trees base (cremation plots access)

**20.3.25.5.3 -** GAPTC membership £638.23 (CFY £580 = +10%)

**20.3.25.5.5** – Defer - JB & CT review with policy allocation in April

**20.3.25.5.5** – Allocate policies for individual councillor review ot propos amends/not ahead of April meeting

**20.3.25.8.1** – Traffic flow survey proposals, £130 each (net)

**20.3.25.8.5** – propose £488.20 Events CC surplus allocate for VE day

**Budget update:**

*Currently £13k surplus, (£14k income surplus for year)*

*Note: approved reserves transfer of £15k for personnel investment not yet actioned in case of surplus*.

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Signed Chair: ­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: ­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_