



Blockley Parish Council **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

THURSDAY 16TH MAY 2024

8:00PM IN ST GEORGE'S HALL, BLOCKLEY

Minutes

Present: Jon Bryan – Chair, Clare Turner – Vice Chair, Ellie Thorneycroft, Chris Leach, Charlie Mackinnon-Little, James Pargeter, representatives of Little Village Hall, Blockley Horticultural Society, Parish Warden, Blockley Toddlers, Dogley, Blockley Jewish Society, Blockley Women Connect, Speed Watch Group, BSSC, Blockley Allotments Association, Friends of the School

Apologies: Tom Bradley, Blockley Blokes Choir

Not present: Lynden Stowe

Meeting opened:19.58

1. Welcome and Apologies by Chair of Blockley Parish Council – Apologies received from Cllr T Bradley and Blockley Blokes Choir
2. Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting on 18th May 2023 approved unanimously.
3. District Councillor's Report – none provided.
4. County Councillor's Report - Cllr Turner provided some highlights of last 12 months:

Space Hive the platform for Crowdfunding is going strong, a total of £1m has been raised for local projects. It is open for applications in Spring & Autumn, Cllr Turner is happy to support local groups to access it. Climate – CDC are committed to becoming Green to the core. Progress not fast, but there are now EV charging points at CDC office and soon at CDC car park at Rissington. CDC won a grant to fund additional funding for EV charge points in council car parks. Support for residents with solar company offering as shown on BPC website. On Biodiversity, the feedback is that there is not enough resource, however they finally have a replacement lead on this. New responsibilities for CDC on biodiversity net gain on planning, will require huge resource in planning and legal depts. Updating of Local plan – Morton-in-Marsh in particular. Cllr Turner would encourage residents to respond to local plan. Neighbourhood plan Working Group within BPC encourages residents to join them to have input. CDC has a new recruit responsible to accelerate affordable green housing. As of October last year the change in CDC switchboard telephone hours does not appear to be affecting customer satisfaction. More online services and access. Leisure Services, new provider has been contracted. Please contact Cllr Turner if anyone has any issues for e.g. with provision in Moreton-in-in-Marsh or Chipping Campden. Boundary review in progress, there will be opportunities for residents to feed into that consultation. Full report on website.

5. Parish Council Annual report Cllr J Bryan – Chair.

We need more councillors to bring us up to 11! Thanks to previous Cllrs. leaving this year, Kirsty Derson, Alison Fowlie, Paul Baines & Steve Neal. Thanks to District Cllr C Turner for her commitment to our

community, and as Vice-Chair. Thanks to County Cllr L Stowe, for putting work into roadworks, still pending works on Lower Street and drainage.

This year we have new Cllrs. taking on projects to deliver progress. We plan to choose our projects carefully and work as a team collaboratively to get things done on a project by project basis, thus ensuring Cllrs. to take on what they can achieve. We want to engage with the community to hear what they want and encourage them work with us. Big projects this year; Monuments & cemetery wall, new cemetery & Neighbourhood Plan. Full report on website.

6. Reports by Lead Councillors:

6.1. Financial Report - Cllr J Bryan.

The precept requested for 2023-24 was a 5% increase. This was in consideration of potentially big projects, land acquisition, maintaining assets, ROSPA report recommendations, & Arboriculture. Plan to move any surplus into reserves which has attracted higher interest rates. This year we will investigate alternate telecoms provider. BPC would like to see better uptake of Grant applications. Youth & Recreation cost centre our ad hoc plans for half term holidays was cancelled so we aim to improve offering in the coming year. BPC tried to accelerate work on Monuments. BPC cost centre summaries were presented. All budget information will be available to view online or alternatively residents may visit the office. Full report on website

6.2. Planning – on behalf of Cllr Neal

Haberdashers Planning application saw BPC facilitating a public consultation on the proposed plans and as a result, saw the planning application through with good measures in place. BPC also lobbied to ensure the name 'Habersdashers' remained rather than the bland and generic 'Cotswold View' proposed by the developer. Work took place on reviewing the Local Plan, particularly with reference to Transport. Representation was made to CDC. BPC put forward a strong submission to CDC requesting an upscale of Blockley's section of the Local Plan (S15) that incorporates elements of Blockley's Climate Emergency Plan and the Neighbourhood Plan that we have begun working on. Full report on website

6.3. Youth & Recreation – Cllr Clare Turner

Y&R lead left at the beginning of the year. BPC continue to fund hall hire for Stretch & Balance Classes for over 60's and this year decided to fund hall hire for Toddler group. Playgrounds: several updates undertaken this past year, repair and replacement of some equipment in Paxford play area, new secure fencing and installed and repair of post and rail fencing in the Jubilee play area in Aston Magna. The largest proportion of Y&R budget goes into Youth Club provision. There has been dwindling attendance particularly in senior group. BPC will be putting out a consultation to hear from parents/carers on youth provision. Plan to put out to tender as current contract ends August 2024. BPC has struggled to find providers for youth activities/club. Y&R have also provided ad hoc holiday activities and plan to continue to do so. Full report on website

6.4. Burials – Cllr Jon Bryan JB

Income figures were provided. We continue to have issues with compost heap, mixed materials in green waste. Dog poo also continues to be an issue despite signs requesting dogs to be kept on leads and poo bin near entrance. Cemetery places are very limited now, we are looking at how we source a new site/location for cemetery. Cemetery gates on Station Road were repaired and re-hung this year, however gravel is still an issue falling down steps from path. The second half of churchyard wall is due to be rebuilt and BPC will need to work with Rev'd Delap. Full report on website.

6.5. Environmental Sustainability – Cllr C Turner, Vice-Chair & District Councillor. Met a several times throughout the year. Environment committee will have input into local plan, and on planning applications. Cllr Mackinnon-Little working on tool to support decision making on energy choices. It will potentially include input from the Energy Trust. BPC are trying to promote the Robin bus – posters are on all noticeboards. County Council are keen to expand the routes so although local pick up is currently in Blockley there could be more places. The EV proposal (2021) from Liberty Charge (now known as Beleiv) was revisited the 2021 proposal, and they were invited to present a new proposal to take into account rapid destination charging in St George's Hall car park. Other Charging Point Operators were invited to scope the possibilities of on-street public charging points around the village, given that a high proportion

of the properties do not have off-street parking and there are no guarantees that anyone can park in the road outside their property to access a home installed charging point (if indeed there is any pavement at all!) Full report on website.

7. Local society updates:

Sue Salmon – Little Village Hall & Hort. Soc.

LVH income just about met their expenditure for first time since covid. Father Brown bookings made the difference. They do have reserves to draw upon. The Souper Mondays, warm spaces initiative was very successful - however as it is Grant funded by BPC it precludes them from applying for any other another Grant from BPC for other improvements. They have received Grant from Lottery of 10.5k towards window replacement.

Hort. Soc. – membership is 100 approx. however all talks and visits are open to all residents. Spring & Autumn shows have been run for 75 years and are very popular. They are looking to encourage membership from the next generation. In common with many Blockley societies the ageing population and members presents a challenge.

Nik Sandars – Parish Warden

Ours is a massive area including walks and byways it is 34 miles. The biggest parish in N. Cotswolds. It has been a busy year with a late start due to rain. They have invested in 2 industrial sized mowers. Volunteers consists of 2 work parties of 10 people for a full day once a fortnight. Nik has seen improved relationships with Northwick and Batsford Estates. Highlights of the year include: replacement of 2 kissing gates (donated by resident G. Gregg). James Kenyon at Batsford Estates and Dr Barling replaced gates at Paxford. Lots of replacing of way mark posts has taken place. Work on bank erosion on paths. Replaced 2 river bridges at Draycott & Aston Magna. Intention that stiles will be replaced with kissing gates to make everything more accessible. This year plans include: to replace 3 stiles at Pasture Farm with kissing gates. Work on footpaths at Bran Mill and Paxford and also at level crossing. Aston Magna to Fosse, 2 neglected paths will be worked on this year. There is also a schedule of planned maintenance. Perennial issues are dog poo bags thrown in hedges and sides of paths, sheep on road (this is the landowners' responsibility, not the tenant farmers), Nik asked if BPC can have any input. The average of volunteers is 73. Nik's email is blockleypw@gmail.com

Sam Dyer & John Potter - Draycott Village Recreational Trust

Complaint over mowing of the village green, this is not being done often enough. BPC will investigate purchase of a better mower which can function in bad weather and also mulch the cuttings more effectively. John Potter advised BPC that CDC road sweeper tipped contents of the sweeper onto his land. Cllr Turner will look into and also advised Mr Potter to contact CDC via their Report-it function.

Marion Janner – Blockley Toddler Group, Dogley, Blockley Jewish Society, Blockley Women Connect

Toddler Group thanked BPC for the support for hall hire, it has transformed the viability of the group

Dogley wanted to say a massive thank you to Parish Warden Nik's Team for keeping paths clear.

Blockley Jewish Soc. have undertaken sessions at Blockley School, the support and interest from school children and teachers was impressive.

Blockley Women Connect the transition from WI has been successful and they now have a good diverse group with a cross section of ages. Thank are due to Meriel Swain/Neal for facilitating the transition.

Sue Sandars - Speedwatch Group

Wanted to know if there was any update on the 20mph sign missing at Quiet Lanes. BPC will check with C Cllr Stowe for update from Glos Highways

Sally Mayo – BSSC

They have lost a hockey team due to decrease in numbers. However, they now have Netball team and are starting one in for the Junior section. Football team is sadly not doing well. They also offer walking Football and walking Hockey. Have undertaken many Fund-raising teas etc.

The size of trucks for Father Brown filming is huge now. Dog poo bin previously refused due CDC limits on number of bins in village, is there any possibility of reviewing this? County Cllr Turner will look into.

Clare Turner - Allotments Association & Blockley FOS

Allotments Association. Despite challenging growing conditions over the past year, they yet again took First Prize at Moreton show in September.

Blockley FOS thanked BPC for supporting school Gingerbread trail. Last year FOS raised £11,200.

8. Opportunity for Parishioners to ask to questions/make comments:

A resident requested an update from County Cllr. BPC will ask C Cllr. L Stowe for an update to share on website.

A resident asked if there was any update/info on the old allotment site. BPC were not aware of any plans submitted but believe there is a meeting due on 5th June.

Meeting Closed 9.40pm