

BLOXHAM PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT BLOXHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL, BLOXHAM ON THURSDAY 12 OCTOBER 2017 AT 7.30PM

PRESENT: Chairman, Councillor Jenny Yates; Councillors Steve Craggs, Mary Groves, Mike Hawtin, Leonard Leigh, Nick Rayner and Sue Slater.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Theresa Goss (Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer).

APOLOGIES: Councillor Gillian Roberts submitted her apologies because she had a prior engagement, these were accepted and the absence authorised.

Councillor Gloria Lester-Stevens submitted her apologies because she had a prior engagement, these were accepted and the absence authorised.

Councillor Stephen Phipps submitted his apologies because he had a prior engagement, these were accepted and the absence authorised.

District Councillor Christine Heath also submitted her apologies.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded the Councillors and the public that recording of the meeting was permitted. However, she asked that should anyone wish to record the proceedings, could they please advise the Parish Council so that this could be facilitated.

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Leonard Leigh to his first meeting of the Parish Council.

89/17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – There were no declarations of interest.

90/17 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS – Prior to the meeting, Councillors Nick Rayner and Steve Craggs, Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Environment Committee respectively, had circulated to the Parish Council, two suggested options with regard to new Christmas lights for the village. The first option was for Christmas lights from St Mary's Church to the shops and the second option was for Christmas lights from Warriner School to the mini roundabout at the junction of Barford Road and the A361. Both options relied on Bloxham School, business owners and village halls agreeing to provide various power points.

Amey had provided an initial estimate for the infrastructure costs, the final quote for the infrastructure costs was being sought.

Field and Lawn had provided the quote for supplying and erecting the Christmas lights and had been approached because they already had the contract for supplying, erecting and storing the Christmas lights for Cherwell District Council in Banbury town centre.

Councillor Nick Rayner advised that the lights should last five years and it was hoped that Field and Lawn would also store them during the year, once they had been taken down after Christmas.

The village Christmas tree would continue to be located on the Green next to the War Memorial. Power was also required at this location for the Christmas tree lights this would be included in the final Amey quote.

Councillor Rayner advised that the lights could only be attached on lamp posts which were 6m high or above, therefore those lamp posts in the village which were shorter than this, could not be included.

These minutes have been agreed by the Chairman and are now subject to approval at the Parish Council meeting on Monday 6 November 2017

If the option of the lights from St Mary's Church to the shops was chosen, further lights could be added in future years, if the Parish Council wished to do so. Also, if the conversion of the street lights could not be completed by Amey in time for this Christmas, the Christmas tree and lights could still be sited on the Green.

There was a discussion about how the project would be funded. It had been proposed that New Homes Bonus could be used, however this might be called on to support the Section 106 projects in the village, therefore, it was viewed that there could be some flexibility in the 2017/2018 budget and that it could possibly be adjusted and savings identified.

Resolved that:

- 1) option one, costing £10,830 be approved, subject to the quotes being in accordance with the estimates, for the provision of Christmas lights from St Mary's Church to the shops and the village Christmas tree; **Action NR/SC**
- 2) the Parish Council's budget for 2017/2018 be reviewed to identify savings which could be made to fund the Christmas lights and this be submitted to the next meeting of the Parish Council on 6 November 2017; and **Action NR/SC/ TG**
- 3) Came and Company, the Parish Councils insurance broker, be asked for advice on the insurance around the Christmas tree and the lights. **Action TG**

91/17 JUBILEE HALL PROJECT – The Chairman reported that Richard Walker from Walker Graham Architects had submitted a quote to act as the Employer's Agent with the responsibility for the design and build contract at the Jubilee Hall. Prior to the meeting, the quote had been circulated to the Parish Council and Cherwell District Council had approved the use of Section 106 money to fund Mr Walker's fee.

Resolved that Richard Walker from Walker Graham Architects be appointed as the Employer's Agent with the responsibility for the design at build contract at Jubilee Hall. **Action TG**

(The meeting ended at 8.30pm)

Chairman – 6 November 2017